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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian Meeting

Joint Communique Issued

NC0412214090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria have called on the Iraqi leadership to respond to the initiatives that seek to implement the demands of international legitimacy as represented by the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the UN Security Council.

The three countries also expressed their deep dismay over the campaign of repression being waged by the Iraqi occupation forces against the unarmed Kuwaiti people.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria praised Security Council Resolution 667 which calls on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to preserve the civil registers authorized by the Kuwaiti Government. The registers list the names of Kuwaiti citizens and others who were living in Kuwait before 2 August 1990.

This came in a joint communique issued tonight at the conclusion of the meetings of the foreign and information ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia in Cairo.

Following is the text of the joint communique which was read by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the conclusion of the meetings:

The meetings of the foreign and information ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria were held in a brotherly and high-minded atmosphere that reflected their desire for Arab solidarity. These meetings sought to tackle the imbalance that has affected pan-Arab security since Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The ministers reviewed at these meetings—that were held over the last two days—all international and regional developments in the Gulf crisis which have occurred since the second round of earlier meetings in Damascus and Latakia on 9 and 10 November.

The ministers noted that Security Council Resolution 678 of 29 November is of extreme importance with regard to the search for a serious settlement to the Gulf crisis that is in line with the UN, Arab League, and ICO resolutions.

The ministers agreed that this resolution was passed as a result of the Iraqi Government's insistence on a stand that defies all international and Arab resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

Within this framework, the foreign and information ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria called on the Iraqi leadership to respond to the initiatives that seek to implement the demands of international legitimacy as represented by the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo, the ICO, and the UN Security Council.

On this occasion, the ministers expressed their deep dismay over the reports coming from Kuwait about the campaign of repression being waged by the Iraqi occupation forces against the unarmed Kuwait people.

They praised Security Council Resolution 677 which calls on the UN secretary general to preserve the civil registers authorized by the Kuwaiti Government and which list the names of Kuwaiti citizens and others who were living in Kuwait before 2 August. They also praised the resolution that embodies the international community's determination to reject all Iraqi attempts to obliterate the Kuwaiti people's identity.

The ministers stressed the importance of continuing the consultations, exchanges of information, and coordination of their countries' stands for the benefit of all Arab issues.

The ministers also agreed to achieve cooperation and integration among the three countries' information resources with the aim of clarifying and deepening Arab public opinion's awareness of the facts of the just and principled stands on the principal Arab issues.

The ministers agreed to hold the fourth session of these fruitful meetings in Saudi Arabia at the next available opporunity.

Information Cooperation Program Signed

NC0412142790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] An executive program outlining the spheres of information cooperation between Egypt and Syria was signed in Cairo today by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

Information Minister al-Sharif made a speech in which he underlined Egypt's eagerness to consolidate Egyptian-Syrian information cooperation in all fields. He said that the meeting of the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers in Cairo demonstrates the three countries' united resolve to lead a common Arab march and not just to confront a crisis in the Arab region.

Information Minister Muhammad Salman also made a speech in which he underscored the great responsiblity shouldered by information bodies in the three countries in disseminating the truth to the Arab world with a view to facing the challenges confronting the Arab world. He added that the cooperation in the field of information between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria seeks to spare the Arab world an immense disaster as a result of Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait.

The Syrian information minister stressed the need for constant efforts for the sake of the Arab world's future, particularly at this critical stage in the history of the Arab nation.

The signing of the executive program was attended by senior information officials in Egypt and members of the delegation accompanying the Syrian information minister.

Syrian Ministers Conclude Visit

NC0512103890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Information Minister Muhammad Salman left Cairo for home this morning after taking part in the meetings of the foreign and information ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt. The meetings ended Tuesday.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish accompanied the Syrian ministers to the airport.

In a departure statement, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman described the meeting yesterday between President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign and information ministers as important.

The Syrian Information Minister praised the special ties between Egypt and Syria, saying that these ties grow with every meeting between the presidents of both countries, a matter which serves the Arab cause, consolidates Arab solidarity in the face of the current threats, and paves the way for a better Arab future.

Minister Salman described the tripartite meeting as an advancement on the path of political and information coordination between the three countries. He added that Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia represent a firm foundation for joint Arab efforts, efforts that are particularly needed in view of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent rejection of the UN Security Council and Arab resolutions.

GCC Defense Ministers Meet in Riyadh

LD0412120290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1052 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Dec (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member-countries this afternoon began their ninth meeting at the headquarters of the GCC general secretariat in Riyadh.

Kuwaiti Minister's Address

LD0412174790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Their highnesses and excellencies the ministers of defense of the GCC member countries this afternoon began their 9th session at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat, in Riyadh.

His Highness Fahar Bin-Taymur al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense of the Sultanate of Oman, delivered a speech at the opening of the meeting.

He said: This meeting of ours today comes at a time when we are at a crossroads due to the occupation of fraternal Kuwait, and the shadow of war is still looming over the region, heralding terrible dangers whose dimensions are known to God alone. Sometimes we feel expectations and hope to see the logic of reason prevail, and the voice of conscience is raised, and sometimes we feel worried and pain in light of the negative answers of the Iraqi side to the calls made to it by various international forces and arenas for a peaceful solution to the crisis, in response to the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions to give back to fraternal Kuwait its prestige and legitimate authority. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that this meeting will discuss the dangers surrounding the Gulf states from all sides. He expressed the hope that everybody will succeed in the quest for decisions likely to strengthen cooperation and coordination so as to secure the security and safety of the GCC member states and to protect their achievements against any aggression.

His Highness Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah made a speech in which he said: We are meeting today while a cloud of deep sorrow is looming over us as a result of the perfidious Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

He said about four months have passed since this sinful aggression, during which the Kuwaitis inside Kuwait have been suffering the most cruel forms of tyranny, torture, killings, plundering, robbery, indecent assault, and other similar inhuman practices about which the world is talking today.

Shaykh Nawwaf said that the effects of this perfidious aggression did not stop at the borders of Kuwait; they went beyond these borders and into the various countries of the region, prompting a climate of tension, fear, and anxiety, and constituting a direct threat to the security and stability of the GCC member countries and, therefore, a threat to world peace and security.

He said that it had now become clear that the Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait was not the result of a so-called dispute over borders or a quarrel about production rights concerning an oil well, as falsely and fraudulently alleged by the Iraqi regime, but it was, in fact, the implementation of an expansionist aggression plan aimed at securing hegemony over all the states of the region.

He said: The treacherous aggression against the state of Kuwait was nothing but the first stage of this expansionist and criminal plan.

The Kuwaiti defense minister emphasized that the GCC member-states had, during the last years, been eager to lay down a defense strategy to defend their national and

regional security, including a rise in defense expenditure and the purchase of modern weapons and advanced technological equipments. They have also reinforced collective security by setting up the joint al-Djazirah Shield Force and by boosting relations and cooperation with the friendly and fraternal states in various domains.

He further said: After the treacherous aggression against the state of Kuwait and the insistence of the Iraqi president on continuing his occupation of Kuwait—thus, defying the will of the Arab nation, the will of the Islamic nation, and the will of the world as a whole—it has become imperative for us, in light of the lessons learned from this vicious aggression, to take the initiative of reviewing our defense strategy so as to secure security for our countries, stability and peace for our peoples, and to protect our civilizational gains against the hands of aggression, and expansionist greed. [passage omitted]

Afterward, there was a closed session meeting.

Meeting Continues

LD0412193190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Nov (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies, the defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, this evening ended their second working session, which began earlier today as part of their ninth meeting.

Their highnesses and excellencies, the ministers, will resume their meeting tomorrow morning on the premises of the Council's General Secretariat, in Riyadh.

Press Statement Issued

LD0412215290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), 'Abdallah Bisharah, has said that their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the council's member-states considered during their meeting today the various aspects of the military situation, ways of confronting the imminent danger which is threatening the GCC states, and the means of liberating Kuwait.

In a press statement following the conclusion of the second session held by the ministers this evening, he said that the defense ministers will hold their final meeting tomorrow, Wednesday [5 December].

Meeting Concludes

LD0512090890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0850 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of defense ended before noon today their ninth session which began here yesterday.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Calls for UN Protection for Palestinians

LD2811225690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Nov (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has called for the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people, the realization of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories, and placing them under temporary United Nations mandate.

In a statement released today by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamed Alghabed on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, which will be marked tomorrow, Thursday [29 November], the ICO calls for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their firm and inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of their sole representative, the state of Palestine.

The statement reviews the Israeli refusal to submit to international legitimacy, the Israeli authorities' perpetration of more massacres, their violation of human rights, and the creation of material and demographic obstacles to obstruct the possibilities of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The statement says: The process of forced emigration of Soviet Jews and others to occupied Palestine comes within this context, and is meant to create the demographic and geographic conditions for Israel's expansionist extension into Arab territories and the establishment of the so-called greater Israel.

The ICO points to recent statements by Yitzhaq Shamir in which he calls for settling Jews and new Jewish emigrants in occupied Palestine, and maintaining the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to realize the so-called land of greater Israel. The ICO warns against the danger of these statements, and states that the continued influx of emigrants points to the occupation of the land of others and its defiance regarding the sentiments of the Islamic nation. It stresses that those statements constitute an obstacle to reaching any just political settlement in the region, and that they threaten world security and peace.

The statement stresses that the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties, including the state of Palestine and the UN Security Council's permanent members, is the right framework for achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region. It says: The struggling Palestinian people, who are continuing their blessed intifadah which is soon to enter its fourth year, are turning toward the international community and all peace and justice-loving forces to stand by their just struggle so that they may be able to regain their inalienable national rights and exercise sovereignty over their land.

Palestinian Affairs

Unified National Leadership Issues Intifadah Calls

Call No. 64

JN0412085090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1953 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Call No. 64 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: No voice overrides the voice of the intifadah, no voice overrides the voice the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO call No. 64—the call of pledge and continuity issued by the PLO, the National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI].

After having completed three years and having reinforced the struggle of our contemporary revolution—mingled with the sacrifices of your sweat and blood, the bonds and levers to achieve these objectives—the intifadah enters its fourth year with popular momentum and resolve to keep up the struggle until our goals of return, self-determination, and independent statehood are realized. The intifadah has confounded all the attempts of the Zionist enemy and its generals to abort it or to coexist with it, and it has redrawn the facts on the ground and its future landscape in relief before the peoples and governments and institutions of the world—facts that are consolidated with each passing day. There can be no solution to the struggle by bypassing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The intifadah has furled the banners of falsehood, hypocrisy, and misrepresentation and confirmed the truth of the legitimacy of struggle; consolidated it with international resolutions and the recognition of the peoples and nations of the world of our prospective Palestinian state; and brought about the international isolation of the Zionist entity and deepened its internal crises. For all the Zionist attempts to kill the intifadah and demolish it politically, militarily, and economically, there is Palestinian anger erupting into fire in the valiant Palestinian [Gaza] strip whose streets and alleys are turning into war zones and battlefields, and popular festivals are being baptized with blood to mark the 2nd independence anniversary, despite blockade, curfews, and starvation. Here are the Palestinian masses in the [West] Bank springing up with innovations and courageous initiatives and replying to Zionist violence and manifestations of racist indiscipline with further struggle—struggle in various individual and collective forms, performing in their unity heroic epics and showing the will of steel of a people who will not retreat, but look to Jerusalem as the capital of their state and embrace the flag as a symbol of their freedom and independence. In spite of the major events in the world—the latest being the Gulf crisis—which has added further burdens to the Palestinian struggle, complicated their mission, and deprived them of a good deal of material resources, the will of our people has grown stronger still and their struggle has mounted even further.

This new international equation that was expressed in the recent UN resolutions on the Gulf issue will only prompt our people to strengthen their determination and stubborn struggle; to promote the intifadah and move it into a higher militant stage; and to use every militant means as demonstrated by the experience of the recent months of the intifadah. The more pressure on the masses of our people, the greater our determination to fight until victory.

The fourth year of the intifadah is approaching, carrying with it complex burdens and missions on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. This requires us to reinforce and promote our militant positions inside and outside the occupied territories and to rely more on the intrinsic Palestinian factor and Arab popular relations to confront the dangers of Jewish immigration and despicable Zionist racism. These relations will reinforce our confrontation of the dangers created by the Western armies and fleets and by the Arab reactionaries' forces that have come to protect the vital interests of imperialism and Zionism. This constitutes a blow against everything that is human, civilized, scientific, pan-Arab, liberating, and progressive in the Arab region. It is also aimed at depriving our people of their legitimate historic rights.

Once again, and on the international level, the UNLI calls on the international community to provide protection for the Palestinian masses, their sanctities, and their potentials. It also urges the international community and the Soviet Union to stop the Jewish immigration that supports the fascist Zionist trends and reinforces its policies. It also calls on the Arab and Islamic liberation movements to cooperate with the PLO to hold a popular conference to confront these historic dangers that are threatening our people, our Arab nations, and the security and safety of mankind.

As Christmas is approaching, the UNLI urges the Pope to pray for the Palestinian people and support their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state on their soil. The UNLI also appeals to our prisoners in Zionist jails to unite and renounce all divisions and differences and turn the military jails into real unionist schools for the intifadah. It also urges the militant committees in prisons to maintain their principles and militancy and refuse to pay fines, however large or small, and urges the brothers and comrades in prisons to abide by this.

The UNLI appeals to our masses to disregard the unfounded and poisonous statements that have been distributed in the occupied territories containing several names with various descriptions. The statements contain names of figures known for their agentry as well as names of honorable citizens. They carry several false signatures. The UNLI stresses that it is not its policy to issue such lists. When it is necessary, it will handle such matters through political means.

The UNLI appeals to employers to absorb as many unemployed as possible, to accommodate the holders of

green cards, and to add new production lines to achieve this. It calls upon the Workers General Federation to follow up its implementation. It also calls upon our masses to encourage agriculture, establish cooperatives, and organize collective and family efforts to cultivate all Palestinian lands. It calls upon quarreling parties, especially in the 'Aramun region in Janin, to solve and put an end to their problems and direct all efforts toward the blessed intifadah in its fourth year.

The UNLI calls on the representatives of various popular sectors to draw up militant programs for the new militant year so as to consolidate national authority and build its institutions. It also asks Palestinian universities to accommodate students with a militant record and holders of green cards.

The UNLI extends its thanks and expresses its full pride in the brother members of the Druze Initiative Committee and the Druze brothers in the Golan Heights. It stresses the unity of struggle against the Zionist enemy. At the same time, the UNLI appeals again to Shaykh Amin Tarif to issue instructions banning [military] service [by Druze] on the land of the Palestinian state before it is too late.

On the occasion of the intifadah entering its fourth year, the UNLI—the arm of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people—extends its greetings to all the righteous blood and to all Palestinian martyrs, wounded, detainees, and deportees. It pledges to them, that the struggle will continue and that the fourth year of the intifadah shall be the year of victory and incorporating the Palestinian state on the ground.

On the 23d anniversary of the launching of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the UNLI salutes our masses in all their positions and expresses pride in the important and prominent role played by the Front. It extends greetings to the Front's leadership, at the head of which is leader comrade Secretary General George Habash, pledging to continue the intifadah and revolution until victory.

So let us all stand bravely at the beginning of the fourth year of the intifadah; let us arm ourselves with the highest degree of awareness; let us reinforce our ranks and strengthen and support the struggle of the intifadah; let us all work to confront the new Zionist repressive measures; let us make Jerusalem our true capital in reality; and let us foil all traitorous political schemes and assert the unity of our people in all positions.

Moreover, let us consolidate the struggle links with our Arab peoples; let us consolidate our regional and international presence; and let us work to enhance and strengthen our own power because struggle is the only way we have to achieve our objectives and foil the reactionary Zionist-imperialist traitorous scheme.

We hail all our masses, especially our heroes in the struggling [Gaza] Strip. We also hail our masses outside the occupied territories and our masses in the 1948-occupied territories; our Jordanian masses; the sons of our Arab people in the Golan and Lebanon; the heroes of the recent suicide operations in Lebanon and Palestine; and the Egyptian soldier of liberation, the hero of Palestine. Disgrace and humiliation to Zionism, imperialism, and their stooges.

The UNLI asks our masses to observe the following activities:

December 1-12 shall be devoted to special escalation by using all available forms of struggle and holding celebrations, festivals, popular conferences, and massive demonstrations on the fourth anniversary of the intifadah. A general strike shall be observed on December 8 and 9 on the anniversary of the second month of the al-Aqsa massacre and the fourth year of the intifadah; these two days will also be considered a qualitative change in escalating the intifadah, reinforcing national unity, and setting up neighborhood and agricultural committees. December 10 is to be considered a day of the flag on which Palestinian flags are to be raised and street traffic is to come to a standstill for 15 minutes from 1100 to 1115. December 11 and 12 shall be two days of escalation against the herds of settlers in which popular festivals and popular festivals and celebrations on the occasion of launching the pioneering Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine].

December 13-20 shall be considered days for Palestinian activities inside and outside the occupied territories on which we call our Arab peoples to support the struggle of our people and their right to repatriation and self-determination and the establishment of their independent state; to stop the Jewish emigration to Palestine; and to stress our people's rejection of imperialist presence in the Gulf and urging the world community to secure protection for the Palestinian people. December 25 and 28 shall be devoted to a general strike against the Judaization of Jerusalem, emigration and settlement, and the formation of a new Zionist ministry and police brigade especially for Jerusalem. The days from 22-29 December shall be devoted to struggling actively to support detainees, to visit detainees and prisoners who have no relatives in Palestine, and to obtain lists of their names from Red Cross offices. Those days shall also be devoted to agriculture and home-production activities, resolving differences, and setting up popular committees in all positions. Shops will open all day on 3, 16, 20, 21 of December.

The first period at schools, colleges, and universities on 4 and 13 December shall be devoted to an explanation of the intifadah and to cultural and national activities and courses in first aid. Schoolboys should attend school except at times of strikes decided by the UNLI only. The higher student council should follow this up.

The UNLI reaffirms the need to pursue action according to the agreement concluded between the Fatah movement—in lieu of the UNLI—and Hamas concerning field activities.

Long live the glorious intifadah. Long live the PLO. Glory and eternity for our righteous martyrs. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO, the UNLI, the State of Palestine.

Call No. 65

LD0412091490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] In its call number 65, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising called for making the fourth year of the intifadah, which will begin on the ninth of this month, a year of Palestinian self-reliance. In a call of pledge and persistence, it said that the complex chores and tasks at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels make it imperative that we consolidate and develop our struggle stances inside and outside, and to further depend on Palestinian inner resources and on popular Arab links.

In its call, the leadership considered the most serious attack by the forces of the tripartite alliance—faced by the Palestinians in the Gulf countries, Lebanon, Syria, and the occupied territories—necessitated the convening of the Palestine National Council to discuss the international developments and changes with a view to laying down clear struggle plans for our people in the places of their presence. It urged the struggle committees in prisons and detention centers not to pay fines imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Palestinians they arrest. As a response to the Israeli measure of handing green identity cards to thousands of Palestinians, the national leadership urged employers in the occupied territories to absorb as many of the unemployed and green cardholders as possible, and to add new production lines for the same purpose. To that end and on the basis of firmly establishing the national authority and building its institutions, the leadership urged Palestinian universities to absorb and accept students with security backgrounds and green cardholders. It considered the fourth year of the intifadah a year of victory and the realization of the state of Palestine.

WAFA Editor Reacts to U.S. Peace Initiative

LD0512004390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Commentary by WAFA's political editor: "Readings in the U.S. Initiative"]

[Excerpts] We hope that the U.S. initiative is not an act of throwing ashes in the eyes and an attempt at summoning causes for war after it has been proved that all the previous causes and those that followed them had not convinced public opinion in general, and U.S. public opinion in particular—foremost Congress—in addition to the western allies and the permanent and nonpermanent members of the UNSC, that there is no solution other than war.

From the start it is possible to predict the futility of the initiative if the U.S. side held on fast to its point of view—in the same way that it is possible to predict the same futility if the Iraqi side maintained its stand—because in the history of negotiations, as experience has shown, sitting at the negotiating table with the same contradictory and conflicting conditions has not and will not lead to any progress in the march for peace and to avoiding a disastrous war. Thus the question facing the U.S., the author of the initiative which was welcomed by Iraq, is: Is it ready to negotiate to achieve a compromise formula acceptable to all the concerned parties, even with a little or much international pressure as well as manifestation of many good intentions and sincere inclinations? Perhaps this question is the one which moved us to begin with—the hope that the initiative is not an act of throwing ashes in the eyes. We do not believe that the U.S. President, whose secretary of state will be going to Iraq with the card of war in his pocket, realizes clearly that public opinion is now powerless and that the U.S. Congress may endorse his actions for other reasons; but he embarked on contacting Iraq. In the same way that we do not believe that Iraq will listen because the U.S. master had granted it the gesture of talking to it on the Gulf crisis.

Therefore we weigh more on the belief which says that talks should cover all issues and problems as this is what logic and reason dictate. To secure the stability of the region and to come out of the war predicament, which not only will result in total destruction but also will continue in various forms and many means, as it is impossible to achieve stability in a region which sleeps on an ocean of explosive problems. [sentence as heard] Some may get angry at our daring and realism in putting the fingers on the wounds, but because we believe that a new reality has emerged since 2 August 1990 we believe—despite the pains, crises, difficulties, and suffering from which no one had escaped—that there is a big chance to come out of all of this if matters are dealt with in a manner which solves problems drastically, and on the basis of legitimacy, and from a premise which makes general principles which provide for dealing with all the causes of the huge imbalance revealed by the Gulf crisis.

Suppose we seize this opportunity and embark on reconciliation, not merely by kissing beards, and do not deal with the causes of the imbalance and settle all problems? We will reach a dead end and a situation worse than all previous ones, rather worse than the disaster. The time has come for us to realize, with deep insight and away from bigotry and tribal thinking, that the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution is the sole way of coming out of the predicament, otherwise we will ask with the same daring and realism: In how many other crises and predicaments we will land to deal with the imbalance and solve the problems? How many times will matters result in placing the region and the world on the brink of war and destruction?

Let this be the last of the crises; it will not be like this without the implementation of international legitimacy

with the same faultless standard and criteria, and then by drawing up a new world for the region in which the flagrant imbalance in the distribution of resources disappears, thus launching the region in a comprehensive Arab development plan that will put it on the road to participating in and contributing to the building of human civilization as there is no role for the destitute many no matter how great their heritage which has enriched the course of civilization in the world from one end to the other. [passage omitted]

We, the Arabs, should show much courage to sit together and agree on our interests and on solving our major problems, away from the drums of war and away from this invasion and the destructive U.S. occupation. If we agree, we will enter the gate of international detente from its wide gate, not to give unjust terms but to put this detente before the opportunity of a big test of the sincerity of intentions and inclinations, and to expose whether it puts in the first place the scales of the unity of legitimacy and dealing on the basis of equality and mutual respect. [passage omitted]

Calls Issued for PLO-Lebanon Dialogue on Camps

NC0412173090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has called for a direct dialogue between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. Such a dialogue would guarantee the security of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Hawatimah added.

The DFLP leader proposed that a delegation made up of representatives of all PLO factions be formed to conduct the dialogue.

Algeria

CSFR Prime Minister Arrives For Meetings

LD0112145390 Prague CTK in English 1349 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers Dec 1 (CTK correspondent)—Czechslovak Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa arrived here today for a two-day official visit to Algeria.

He is accompanied by Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous, Czech Engineering Minister Miroslav Gregr and President of the State bank of Czechoslovakia Josef Tosovsky.

Algeria is the first leg of Calfa's North African tour during which he will visit also Morocco and Tunisia.

Czechoslovak-Algerian cooperation has a tradition of a long standing and covers many spheres.

In the post-war period, Czechoslovakia supported Algeria's effort at freedom and independence from French colonialism. At the turn of the 1950's and 1960's, Czechoslovakia supported politically, morally and materially the Algerians' national liberation struggle and immediately after its declaration of independence recognized de jure the provisional government of the Algerian republic. Diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level were established on July 7, 1962.

The current journey by Marian Calfa to Algeria is the first official visit by a top-ranking Czechoslovak official to Algeria since the November 1989 velvet revolution in Czechoslovakia.

Algeria has been for many years Czechoslovakia's biggest trade partner in the Maghreb region. In 1989 their trade turnover reached 100 million dollars. Czechoslovakia provides for Algeria important scientific-technological assistance—in geology, farming, water economy, health service and education. Now some 300 Czechoslovak experts are working in the country. Several hundreds of Algerian students studied at Czechoslovakia's higher learning institutions. Currently about 40 Algerians are studying in Czechoslovakia.

In the past decades, Czechoslovakia has offered to Algeria also extensive assistance in the form capital investments in the consumer, food, engineering and power industries for which Algeria still owes Czechoslovakia about 500 million dollars. Czechoslovakia would welcome this debt to be repaid in supplies of oil and natural gas, especially in view of the dwindling supplies of the fuel from the Soviet Union and the soaring prices of oil in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis.

Received by Benjedid

LD0212140190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid received at the headquarters of the presidency this morning Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia [Marian Calfa], who arrived in our country yesterday on a two-day official visit.

The meeting was attended by head of the government Mouloud Hamrouche and Foreign Minister Sid'Ahmed Ghazali. [passage omitted]

Meets Hamrouche

LD0212210190 Prague CTK in English 1521 GMT 2 Dec 90

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Algiers Dec 2 (CTK)—Possibilities of further cooperation were discussed by Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and president of the Algerian National Assembly Abdul Aziz Belkadem.

Later today, the premier left for Arzev to inspect the natural gas liquification terminal.

According to Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa's entourage, the premier shortly met with his Algerian counterpart Mouloud Hamrouche today. They agreed on the way of repayment of the credit which was granted by Czechoslovakia to Algeria this year.

The Algerian side accepted the Czechoslovak proposal, the sources said, and will repay by the end of January two-thirds of this year's 32 million dollars trade surplus of Czechoslovakia.

Calfa and Hamrouche had already on Saturday tete-a-tete talks and afterwards at the head of their delegations. [sentence as received] The Czechoslovak side stressed interest in expanding economic cooperation, especially purchases of natural gas and other energy raw materials. The Algerian side promised gas supplies.

Comments on Oil Agreements

LD0212195190 Prague CTK in English 1518 GMT 2 Dec 90

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Algiers Dec 2 (CTK)—Algeria is a solid partner with which Czechoslovakia wants to continue cooperating, especially in its effort to diversify its energy suppliers, Czechoslovak Marian Calfa told Czechoslovak journalists here last night in conclusion of the first day of his visit to Algeria.

According to Calfa, who is on a two-day official visit to Algeria, the country agrees to supply natural gas to Czechoslovakia on a long-term basis. It now remains to resolve the question of transport which Czechoslovakia

wants to discuss within the Pentagonal which groups in addition to Czechoslovakia also Hungary, Austria, Italy, and Yugoslavia.

Czechoslovakia is seeking new oil and gas suppliers to compensate for decreases in supplies from the Soviet Union, thus far its major supplier.

Calfa said that the problem of repayment of the credit Czechoslovakia granted to Algeria in the past has not yet been resolved. Czechoslovakia proposes that Algeria clear two-thirds of the debt, which will amount to 32 million dollars at the end of this year, in cash and one-third by oil supplies. Algeria promised to start wiping out the debt next year when it will begin to draw higher revenues from oil exports, Calfa said.

According to him, Algeria essentially wants to export oil for cash, but in the case of Czechoslovakia it would accept the proposal to repay oil by engineering equipment and other goods. However, cooperation would be done between enterprises and organizations and therefore it will depend on them whether and how this plan is realized. The two countries' governments will only create advantageous fundamental [incomplete sentence as received].

Departs for Morocco

LD0212232990 Prague CTK in English 2115 GMT 2 Dec 90

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Rabat Dec 2 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa ended a two-day official visit to Algeria and arrived here tonight for an official visit to Morocco, second leg on his North African tour which will take him also to Tunisia.

Czechoslovakia's relations with Morocco have the longest tradition in comparison with the other Maghreb countries. Czechoslovakia set up its consulate in Casablanca as early as 1935. When Morocco's independence was declared in 1956, Czechoslovakia was among the first states which established diplomatic relations with it.

Calfa is the highest state representative of Czechoslovakia ever to visit Morocco. In 1988, Morocco welcomed the first Czechoslovak parliamentary delegation.

The agreement on economic, scientific, and technological cooperation of 1986 provides broad possibilities for developing relations between the two states also in the new conditions which have developed in Czechoslovakia since the November 1989 Velvet Revolution.

The two countries' trade turnover in 1989 amounted to almost 40 million dollars.

Czechoslovakia is interested especially in Morocco's natural fertilizers which are the major item in the trade exchange. Morocco is interested in Czechoslovakia's assistance in farming and food production, the building industry, geodesy and geology, and also in cooperation in production in the textile and leather industries.

Public Service Workers To Hold Strike 11 Dec

LD0412083590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Independent National Union of Public Servants has decided to declare a general strike. The decision was contained in a statement delivered to the Channel 1 newsroom yesterday evening. The statement reads:

At the meeting held last week between the bureau of the Independent National Union of Public Servants and the chief of the office of the prime minister, the latter pledged to organize a meeting between the Independent Union and the prime minister during the current week from 1 to 7 December.

However, in view of the government's procrastination in meeting the Union's claims and its failure to honor the promises made and recorded in the numerous minutes of meetings between the two sides, the National Bureau of the Independent National Union of Public Servants has decided to declare a renewable 5-day strike throughout the whole of the country as of Tuesday 11 December.

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks at 3 Dec Award Ceremony

NC0312150390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0928 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak after receiving the Louise Michel Prize from the French Political and Social Studies Center at the al-Zahra' Hall in the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis, Cairo on 3 December—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Alain Poher, speaker of the French Senate and honorary president of the Political and Social Studies Center; Mrs. (Janet Deken), the founding president of the Center; our dear guests; ladies and gentlemen: I welcome you onto Egyptian soil as prominent figures in the fields of politics, thought, and law who have contributed and given the Political and Social Studies Center its noble and lofty principles. These principles call for the liberation of man everywhere from anything that infringes on his humanity, hampers his freedom of expression, or restricts his legitimate right to determine his future and live in a peaceful community. I welcome you onto Egyptian soil from friendly France, the great country whose people shared in the most precious sacrifices; whose thinkers and philosophers upheld the banner of liberty, fraternity, and equality; and who, along with their enlightened leaders throughout the ages, contributed to building man a free society where he can perform his duty while at the same time enjoying his rights.

While I express heartfelt thanks for the great honor bestowed on me by this prize for human rights, democracy, dialogue, and peace from your Political and Social Studies Center, I am prompted by honesty and gratitude to say that this prize is not for the man standing before you now, but rather it is awarded to a host of Egyptian figures who—through enlightened thinking, tireless work, and deep faith on the international and regional levels—contributed to the promotion of human rights in the 20th century that is now drawing to a close.

No doubt you are aware that Egypt has played a basic role in formulating the principles of the international proclamation on human rights that was endorsed by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948 after the birth of the United Nations in the wake of World War II. Professor Mahmud 'Azmi, the great writer and prominent human thinker, was Egypt's representative to the international committee that formulated this pioneer document.

It is no exaggeration to say that the prize you have awarded to me is a salute to the role played by Dr. 'Azmi in the early 1940's, as well as to Egypt's representatives who participated in formulating the international pledges to civil and political rights and to social, economic, and cultural rights endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 1966, as well as the agreement on the elimination of all forms of segregation against women in September 1982. Egypt is a member of all the international committees charged with following up on the implementation of these charters.

Permit me to say that the prize is also awarded to the servants of the law and the protectors of the supremacy of the law in Egypt throughout the ages, be they the sitting or standing men of law [judges or lawyers]. We in Egypt take pride in our judiciary past and present. We also hold in esteem the sacredness of the judiciary and boast of its complete independence.

I would not be exaggerating to note that some of the verdicts Egyptian justice has issued in a number of famous political cases, cited by the masses and in writers' articles, are a precious part of our cultural heritage in protecting human rights.

Brothers and sisters, you have come to Egypt after the general elections to the People's Assembly have been held. According to the provisions of the Constitution, these elections were supervised by approximately 2,087 judicial counselors. In the elections 2,861 candidates from various parties and independents participated and competed for 444 seats in 222 constituencies.

I need not go on record as saying that these elections were completely fair and that all procedures were legally protected. Since the early 1970's, our political system has been based on a multiparty system. We now follow the method of direct elections ratther than elections by candidate list; this experience proved inappropriate for our circumstances. For this reason we reverted to the direct election system in response to a collective popular call from the parties, the same parties that had previously chosen the list system.

We firmly believe that the freedom to vote is the foundation for the masses' participation in decision-making and ensures the legislature's control over the actions of the executive. There can be no democracy without the freedom to vote. There can be no progress or development without democracy. Without the free and multilateral expression of opinion on the road to progress and development, progress and the human race would be subjected to extremely dangerous consequences. We faced this for many years following the 23 July 1952 revolution when the republican and the one-party systems were adopted as a means to progress. That system had its own subjective circumstances which there is insufficient time to present to you now. We then arrived at the clear conclusion that confirmed our conviction that social democracy cannot supersede political democracy. The late President Anwar al-Sadat led a radical corrective movement in the 1970's, based on the multiplicity of parties and on a single political and social democratic cohesion. The Constitution was then amended.

I assumed the presidency at a time when democracy was still being born. All the national forces cooperated with me in a radical move toward a firm and entrenched democracy that expanded to extend freedom of expression to its limits. The varied opinions of nine parties that represent the various ideological thoughts have prospered; they have their newspapers which publish what they wish. Not a single pen has been or will be broken. Not one individual has been or will be subjected to constraints because of the views he expresses.

Thus, ladies and gentlemen, you can see that Egypt was the first to realize more than 15 years ago the new concept of the new world that is based on respect for human rights in a free society that seeks to bring about world peace.

You all remember that Egypt has called for peace in this part of the world. It demolished the walls of hatred, rancor, mistrust, and constant wars of revenge; it implemented peace; it respects peace and protects it with all its strength.

Our full commitment to this shining principle has made us take a position that completely rejects Iraq's armed occupation of Kuwait and the elimination of an independent and sovereign state. We will continue to defend the Kuwaiti people's rights to their territory and to their free country. [applause]

On the basis of respect for the people's right to self-determination, we support the Palestinian people's right to their territories and fate. We call for rallying all the international efforts to reach a legitimate solution to the Palestinian issue once the Gulf crisis ends. [applause]

Egypt's experiment in political democracy has become a system, a free exercise, and a commitment applied. This experiment as well as that of Senegal have become examples and beacons for a number of African countries to follow the same course, not out of submission to debt pressures or to the conditions for aid imposed by international establishments, but out of conviction that party pluralism is the right course for development. The people of these countries have rightly seen that there can be no economic development without democracy. It is

no secret that the countries which have opted for the single party system after attaining independence 30 years ago have become poorer than they were in their pre-independence days. Popular participation in the development process is the way to progress and success. Popular participation cannot be achieved except with democracy and a respect for human rights.

Permit me to state an objective fact about the conditions affecting Third World countries. East Europe's move to multiparty systems and economic freedom in the space of only a few months does not mean that all the Third World countries can do the same and in such a short time. Some of these countries have their own diverse conditions because of their social, tribal structure, and inherited traditions and customs that this structure entails. They are also still lagging behind in the race to develop their infrastructure, in addition to the shortage in educational tools and cultural resources.

I believe, however, that the African countries are proceeding on the right path. As an African state we made an important contribution to the conclusion of the African agreement on human rights in the 1980's. The first step in this direction began with President Leopold Senghor's proposal at the African summit in Khartoum in August 1978.

Ladies and gentlemen, the process of establishing human rights is long and difficult, but such a process is indispensable if security and peace are to eventually prevail. We thank God that today we see many ripe fruits and green meadows where the land had been parched and bare. The human struggle is always capable of reaching its goal despite all obstacles. We believe in the saying that we are born free; no one can enslave us. Our Islamic religion calls for consultation. This religion holds man's freedom, dignity, and humanity in high regard and calls for respecting rights and responsibilities in a cohesive and united society characterized by tolerance, amity, and mercy in which there is no discrimination between an Arab and a non-Arab except in their piety and respect for divine teachings.

Ladies and gentlemen, the new formula for the new world—in which human rights are secured and peace prevails in the complete absence of threats to the future of mankind—is a collective responsibility shared by big and small, rich and poor, and developed and developing countries. The world in which we live is becoming smaller and is being brought closer together by unprecedented modern communications media. What takes place in the northernmost part echoes in the southernmost part, and vice versa. This world cannot be divided between the prosperous and the miserable. Realism shows us that there can be no prosperity at the expense of others' misery.

Last but not least, I repeat my greetings and gratitude to you. I also thank you again for your presence which provided the occasion for this (?happy) family gathering. I wish you a good stay in Egypt—the Egypt of democracy, dialogue, peace, and human rights. May God grant us all success. May peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]

'Abd-al-Majid Speaks at Cairo University 1 Dec

NC0112212590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today opened the fourth annual political studies conference at Cairo University. The conference is organized by the Political Studies and Research Center of Cairo University. The conference, which will be held from 1 to 3 December, will discuss the most important issues facing the Arab region today, including the Gulf crisis and its international, regional, and local repercussions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid delivered a speech on "The Arab Homeland in a Changing World" in which he said: The relationship between the Arab homeland and the changing world today becomes clear when comparing and contrasting the 2 August 1990 events in Kuwait and the second summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Paris from 19 to 21 November 1990.

The Arab leaders attended an extraordinary Arab summit conference at the Iraqi Government's invitation in Baghdad from 28 to 30 May 1990 to discuss the challenges facing the Arab national security. I would not be revealing a secret when I say that Cairo played a major role in convening this conference as a demonstration of solidarity with fraternal Iraq. We did this because we felt the need to underline our position of support for Iraq, and because we were convinced of the need to conduct an in-depth analysis at the highest possible level of what is taking place in the world around us, and reach an agreement on a number of principles and concepts that will govern the course of joint Arab action in the process of historic change taking place in our world today.

Egypt went to the conference fully expecting that this conference would herald the beginning of a new stage in joint Arab action consistent with the spirit of our age, and would lead the Arab nation in the same direction as the process of history. The process of history, in its essence, is a forward movement, and by necessity a progressive one.

At the beginning of this extraordinary summit conference, the Iraqi president delivered a long speech in which his excellency asked how could the Arab situation become better than it is today. The answer which he gave to the question was that the Arabs know that in order for a better state of relations to exist they should avoid greed, rancor, intrigue, and harmful actions against others; maintain strong solidarity in good and bad times; stand united against aggression; ensure that their words match their deeds since we are one Arab nation; believe in one Arab destiny and realize that national security is indivisible; and remember that because we are one nation, we must concentrate on the points of agreement and on the factors that unite the Arab nation in order to build on them. In its final statement the conference welcomed international detente, cooperation among peoples, ending the arms race, the removal of the scourge

of devastating wars, and the establishment of international peace and security on the basis of balance between common interests, mutual respect, sovereignty, and independence.

No sooner had the ink dried with which this speech and all the conference resolutions had been written, then the Iraqi Government addressed in July 1990 a strongly worded memorandum—unprecedented in Arab League history—to the League General Secretariat in which it accused other Arab states of collusion with foreign forces in order to inflict defeat on Iraq through an economic war.

This memorandum, in its form and contents, came as a surprise to Cairo. Regarding its form, the norm among the Arab countries never involved intercourse in such a tone; as for its contents, we realized that the spirit of the age and the concepts of joint Arab action on which the May 1990 Baghdad summit conference based its meetings would surely help Iraq, Kuwait, and the Emirates in settling all their pending problems in a fraternal manner in accordance with international as well as Arab principles and rules that govern and regulate the peaceful settlement of conflicts among states.

At the time you followed President Husni Mubarak's sincere efforts to bring the views of Kuwait and Iraq closer and to urge them to settle their disputes, however momentous, peacefully. Events followed and the guns roared. At dawn on 2 August the forces of an Arab state penetrated the borders of another free, independent, and sovereign Arab state that is a full member of the Arab League and the United Nations.

Therefore, 2 August 1990 marks a serious turning point in the Arab nation's history and a return of the Arab homeland and the Arab people to bygone eras and to concepts and theories that have collapsed and disappeared for good. It also marks a serious setback to the concept of pan-Arab security; an invalidation of the institutions of joint action, particularly the Arab League; and an instrument to divide the Arab homeland and destroy the idea of Arab unity among the Arab people. [passage omitted]

History does not freeze at one specific period or event. Proceeding from this premise, I am confident that we will achieve a settlement to the Gulf crisis on the basis of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Arab legitimacy that complement each other. Egypt hopes that the efforts that are being exerted will succeed in achieving this peaceful goal.

I believe that once the Gulf crisis is over, the Arab world must find a new formula for its political, economic, and security conditions as well as the rules that will govern the relations among the forces of the Arab system. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that he is one of those who believes that an Arab system has existed since the signing of the Alexandria Protocol on Saturday, 7 October 1944, that calls on the signatory states to convene periodic meetings to strengthen the relations among themselves, to coordinate their political plans to achieve cooperation among themselves, to protect their independence and sovereignty against any aggression by all possible means, and to generally look into the affairs of the Arab countries and their interests.

In addition to this protocol, the Arab system is based on a group of basic documents that define the constituent framework of and principles that govern the relations and interactions among the Arab states. These documents include:

1. The Arab League Charter signed in Cairo on 22 March 1945;

2. The joint defense and economic cooperation pact among the Arab League member states and its military annex signed in Cairo on 13 April 1950, as well as the supplementary protocol appended to this pact signed in Cairo on 2 February 1951;

3. The resolutions issued by the Arab summit conferences;

4. The Arab solidarity charter of 15 September 1965.

[Passage omitted] 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that he has no doubt that the conferees agreed with him that any Arab arrangements or formulas for Arab order after the Gulf crisis has been resolved must stem from the provisions outlined in these documents and in the UN Charter, particularly those provisions related to security arrangements. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has proved that such arrangements are extremely necessary to maintain minimal security for the Arab countries, that is the inviolability of the borders and territory of every Arab country, including the fraternal state of Kuwait. We will not rest nor keep silent until the restoration of Kuwaiti independence and complete sovereignty over every iota of its territory.

'Abd-al-Majid said: Brothers and sisters: We in Egypt will not accept aggression, whatever its source, nor division of the concept of Arab security into its external dimension of protecting the Arab countries against any aggression on any Arab country from outside the Arab fold and its internal dimension of an Arab country attacking another. As we have been required throughout the past 40 years to defend the right of the Palestinian brothers and remove the aggression afflicting them, so we are required today to stand by our Kuwaiti brothers in their struggle to remove all effects of the Iraqi aggression against their homeland. Needless to say, the security arrangements that will be reached among the Arab countries must emanate from the special status of inter-Arab relations and not be imposed from outside because what is suitable in one specific geographic context does not necessarily mean that it can be emulated and applied in the Arab context. He said: Perhaps you agree with me that the cornerstone of these security arrangements is the principle of collective security. I believe that Articles 5

and 6 of the Arab League Charter define the basic principles of collective security. [passage omitted]

He added: I believe that it is necessary that any security arrangements agreed upon by the Arab countries, collectively or by a group of countries geographically connected, should be linked to Article 51 of the UN Charter. When Egypt supports the call for settling any problems among the Arab countries resulting from the use of force in an Arab framework, it does not mean that Egypt agrees that this call should become an obstacle to the implementation of the provisions of the UN Charter when a problem arises in the Arab world from the use of force or the threat to use force, or when aggression is committed by one Arab country against another. It is only natural in such cases that Egypt should call for the implementation of all UN resolutions, particularly those endorsed by the Security Council on the Palestinian issue. Egypt will act to marshal the political desires of the permanent members of the Security Council after the Gulf crisis has been settled to act with utmost seriousness and attention to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425 on the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Allow me to underline a fact that some of us sometimes forget that the goal of pan-Arab security is first and foremost the well-being of the Arab citizen at present and in the future. You may share my views that the economic dimension assumes special importance in any arrangements pertinent to pan-Arab security on the internal level. I believe that it is necessary for the Arab countires to call for an Arab summit at the proper time and after good preparations to formulate an economic Arab strategy that takes into account the integration between the Arab countries' security and overall economic development as well as its link with the international economic order and the emerging great economic phenomena which will reflect on all the Arab countries whether or not we want it to. [passage omitted]

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said: Inasmuch as our age poses major challenges, at the same time it holds great prospects for peace, security, and progress. The great test facing the Arab world today is how to exploit these opportunities to bolster its status in the world and to secure its vital interests. I believe that this requires before anything else the formulation of a unified political will to direct the process of change in the Arab order so that it may become one of the effective orders within the framework of the new international order. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Praises Saudi Decision on Debts

NC0112105190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision to cancel Egypt's debts.

He said that this decision is in line with the decisions by the other Arab Gulf states to write off Egypt's debts. He added that the Saudi decision to write off the debts undoubtedly reduces the burdens on the Egyptian balance of payments, but it does not mean that all problems have been overcome.

'Abd-al-Majid Inaugurates Mediterranean Conference

NC0212171890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has underlined that the mutual interests of Mediterranean states and the close ties linking them make it incumbent that they establish and develop cooperation within a framework based on mutual trust.

In a speech today at the inaugural meeting of senior officials from Mediterranean states, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that certain principles must govern relations among different states. Foremost among these principles are abidance by the objectives and provisions of the UN Charter, respect for territorial integrity, and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs.

Also emphasized was the need for resolving disputes peacefully, for consolidating good-neighborliness, and for fully complying with the principle of avoiding the use or threat of force. Further, he stressed the impermissibility of seizing other territories by force.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that as the host country, Egypt prepared a plan on the primary considerations for holding a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean on the basis of the Italian-Spanish initiative that emphasized the urgent need for developing new criteria for relations among the region's countries, particularly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Asserting that the idea of convening a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean is not merely a proposal that seeks to find short-term solutions to explosive problems in the region through convening short-lived conferences, he explained that the ultimate objective is to develop an integrated comprehensive approach and to adopt a number of acceptable rules and principles on issues such as security, disarmament, economic cooperation, and human rights. He stressed that this concept gains special significance in view of the tension currently prevailing in the region and the challenges facing its states.

The foreign minister added that the meeting should handle the human factor and human rights very carefully to allay any suspicion of interference in other countries' internal affairs.

He noted that the goal of the conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean should be the gradual building of trust among the various countries, with emphasis on achieving mutual understanding between

states and on assigning a major role to economic cooperation in order to bridge the gap between North and South.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid proposed that a European bank for Mediterranean states be established in order to provide economic assistance to the region's countries to promote development and to finance investment and joint projects.

He announced that during the recent meeting in Algiers last June, the nonaligned foreign ministers in the Mediterranean expressed their full conviction that security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and Europe are inseperable. They also expressed their belief that open, constant dialogue and intensified cooperation between the two sides are bound to promote understanding and trust among the states.

The meeting of officials from the Mediterranean states will last two days. The participating eight countries—Egypt, Yugoslavia, Algeria, France, Spain, Italy, Malta, and Portugal—will discuss ways to bolster cooperation and security in the Mediterranean, as well as prepare for a meeting in this context modeled after the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ghali Views 'New Reality' in Post-Crisis World

NC0412165090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that the Gulf crisis has revived the major states' interest in Third World problems after this interest had waned in the face of the changes in East Europe.

In a lecture he delivered this evening at the conclusion of the fourth annual conference for political research at Cairo University, Dr. Ghali said the agreement by the United States and the Soviet Union to strengthen the role of the United Nations, whether by means of extending aid to the developing states of the south or by settling disputes among these states, will enable the Third World countries to regain their place on the world stage.

He added that the Arab world will face a more serious situation after the Gulf crisis is resolved than the situation it is facing during the current crisis. The resolution of the crisis, be it achieved through peaceful or military means, will create a new reality in the Arab world. He noted the need for the Arab states to formulate a new approach to common Arab action, an approach far removed from the lukewarmness and indifference that has prevailed since the establishment of the Arab League in 1945.

Speaking on the changes in the world, Dr. Ghali said Egyptian diplomacy had comprehended these changes early on and realized the impact they could have on the Third World in terms of the loss of interest by the major industrial nations that are called the rich North and in the problems of the poor South.

Dr. Ghali said the reason for this is that the true motive for extending assistance in the past was the cold war and the fact that this aid was connected to the former confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. Dr. Ghali pointed out that the aid extended by international financial organizations—such as the IMF and the World Bank—came attached to political conditions. In addition to the difficult economic conditions imposed by these organizations, the countries receiving assistance had to respect human rights and democratic rules by transforming their political systems from one-party rule to the multiparty system.

Dr. Ghali expressed the concern of Egypt and Egyptian diplomacy that these international changes might lead to the creation of a new "iron curtain" between the rich North and the poor South as a result of the integration between the Soviet Union and the United States, and between the East and West blocs. He said the framework for this new cooperation and integration will come about through the seven major industrialized nations.

Concluding his lecture, Dr. Ghali called on the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia to confront these changes by adopting a new outlook that underscores the need for cooperation both on the bilateral or regional levels, and by enhancing the role of the United Nations as a framework for this cooperation.

Commentary Views Security After Iraqi Pullout

NC0412212290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "Baghdad's Policy During the Crisis Must Be High on the Mind of the American Negotiator"]

[Excerpts] As the United States prepares to hold a direct dialogue with Iraq in accordance with U.S. President George Bush's initiative, it would be worthwhile for us to examine the series of events that followed Iraq's treacherous invasion of Kuwait more than four months ago. These events revealed Iraq's policy not only toward Kuwait but also toward all countries in the region, and showed its deep antagonism toward the world.

The Iraqi leadership viewed the invasion and annexation as the fulfillment of its country's historic claims; they tried to falsify the facts and change Kuwait's demographic character in anticipation of a number of possibilities, including the possible holding of a referendum on the regime in Kuwait in the event of an Iraqi troop withdrawal. [passage omitted]

As he continues to stray from the right path, Saddam Husayn does not seem to realize that he is mobilizing international public opinion and political and military leaders against Iraq. Nor does he seem to have grasped that his instransigence and arrogance have caused world statesmen to come to the firm conclusion that the ruler of Baghdad has become a threat to his country, the Gulf, and world peace and stability. It is this conclusion that

prompted the world community to discuss and make plans beyond the withdrawal of Kuwait, something that has become inevitable. The more comprehensive and general issue now is how to maintain security in the region free from any future Iraqi threats.

Toward this end, Egypt's call for removing weapons of mass destruction from the Gulf and Middle East regions—a call which has won the support of influential international powers—will be the subject of serious negotiations after Iraq's full withdrawal from Kuwait.

We have attempted to present a comprehensive picture of Baghdad's policy because this picture must be high on the mind of the American negotiator when he speaks to Tariq 'Aziz, the architect of political sabotage. It is true that U.S. officials have, along with the support of the whole world, made it completely clear that there will be no compromise or bargaining over Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait or over the restoration of its legitimate ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and that Iraq's demands will be discussed only if it withdraws. Guarantees to protect Kuwait after the withdrawal are another important consideration.

In conclusion, everyone is awaiting the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue, hoping the Iraqi leadership will respond to the Arab and international resolutions and close a black chapter in the history of Iraq and the Arabs so that the bridges of confidence between the Arabs and the world, which collapsed following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, can be rebuilt.

Saddam's Reaction to Bush's Initiative Examined

NC0512115790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has warned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn against misinterpreting the recent initiative by U.S. President George Bush. The paper says that Saddam may see the initiative as a gimmick representing the Western world's fear of war.

In its commentary today, AL-AHRAM says the problem is that there is a possibility that such a conclusion may be reached by the brilliant Iraqi "advisers" in the hope of currying favor with the Iraqi leader and boosting his already inflated ego.

Equally dangerous is the possibility that Saddam may feel he is equal to other world powers and a match for all the forces ranged against him; this may amplify his arrogance and inspire him to play for higher stakes. Saddam has already asked to name representatives of his choice to attend the Washington and Baghdad meetings so as to counter the U.S. President's proposal that ambassadors of Gulf countries take part in his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz.

AL-AHRAM says it is likely that Saddam Husayn hopes to steer the meetings into a discussion of Iraqi rights so as to counter the U.S. agenda which focuses on the international community's rights. Iraqi, or more specifically Saddam's rights, are not confined to geographical questions. Saddam believes that he has the right not only to seize Kuwait but to become the region's top leader and spokesman. He hopes to link the Gulf crisis to all other regional crises, for this may allow him to maintain his grip on Kuwait as long as these perennial problems endure.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that President Bush has made this initiative with an eye on Congress and U.S. public opinion. What Bush meant was that "he is ready to go the last mile before going to war." Saddam's attachment to the initiative, however, may not signal his willingness to retreat as much as his desire to procrastinate, bargain, and attain his goals.

Military Officials Receive Kuwaiti Staff Officer

NC0212142590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon after a three-day visit. During his stay, the Kuwaiti official was received by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, and Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Armed Forces chief of staff.

The Kuwaiti official was seen off at the airport by Major General Mahmud Fu'ad Ahmad, commander of the central military zone.

Ghali Promises 'Pressure' for Israeli Withdrawal

TA0312085790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that as soon as the Gulf crisis is over, Egypt will seek to mobilize international pressure on Israel for a complete withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. But he unequivocally rejected the idea of using the Palestinian question as a means of achieving a "face-saving" Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"You should not provide face-saving for an aggressor," Butrus Ghali said, noting that the UN Security Council had called for an unconditional and immediate Iraqi pullout from the occupied emirate. Starting discussion of the Palestinian problem before an Iraqi withdrawal could weaken the international consensus against Iraq, since a similar consensus on the Palestinian issue could not be taken for granted, he said.

But Butrus Ghali stressed that once Iraq is forced to leave Kuwait, Cairo will seek "to use this precedent and say it is time to obtain the withdrawal of the Israeli

troops from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, according to UN Resolution 242.

"You have the same principle (in both cases)," Butrus Ghali said. "Namely, that there can no acquisition of land by power." This principle has been adopted by the same five permanent members of the Security Council in both instances, he said.

But the international community may "adopt a double standard" in the wake of the Gulf crisis and be less willing to pressure Israel than it has been Iraq, Butrus Ghali said.

Butrus Ghali said that "no difference" exists between Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait. (Editor's note: The Golan Heights has not been annexed—Israeli law has been applied there, a step short of annexation). Regarding the West Bank and Gaza he conceded that a "difference of degree" exists since Israel has not formally annexed those areas and since, in the case of Kuwait, an entire member state of the UN was erased. But, he stressed, "the principle is exactly the same" in the case of Israel's control of the areas captured in 1967 and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Precisely in order that a precedent for the Palestinian issue could be set, Cairo has been intent on using the UN as the framework to solve the Gulf crisis, Butrus Ghali said.

Ghali Discusses Recent Developments in Somalia

NC0412191890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt is following developments in Somalia with interest and hopes that the Somali parties will achieve stability in their country. He added that despite the serious circumstances and developments in Somalia, he hopes the roundtable conference scheduled to be held in Cairo will provide an opportunity for national reconciliation and maintain Somalia's sovereignty and independence. [passage omitted]

Somali Minister Concludes Visit

NC0512073290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0629 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Somali Foreign Minister Ahmad Aden left Cairo early this morning at the end of a five-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit the Somali minister held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who is currently visiting Egypt, about the situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Syrian Delegation Arrives To Monitor Barter Deal

NC3011220990 Cairo MENA in English 2149 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 30 (MENA)—A high-level Syrian delegation arrived here tonight to monitor the implementation of the barter deal between the two countries. Syria has imported from Egypt so far according to this deal nearly 30 thousand tonnes of rice, and medicines worth 3 million dollars. The chief of the Syrian delegation said Egypt imported from Syria nearly 11,000 tonnes of lentils, and tobacco worth more than 3 million dollars.

Ambassador to Israel Reports to 'Abd-al-Majid

NC0412215990 Cairo MENA in English 2147 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec.4 (MENA)—Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni arrived here tonight on a brief visit.

Speaking on arrival, he said he will submit a report to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on developments of events over the past period and developments now witnessed by the region.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Chadian Delegation

LD0412212790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received a Chadian delegation headed by engineer (Dosso) Deby, the brother of Idriss Deby.

The Chadian delegation also included (Mohammed Salah Adam) and Flight Major (Nejeta Bayasomal), member of the people's front headed by Idriss Deby.

Habre 'Hostages' Return From Ndjamena

LD0412190990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Dec (JANA)—A number of Libyan Arab nationals who carried out the order to defend freedom in Chad and who were released following the victory of the troops of liberation and Habre's defeat and the overthrow of his regime [in Chad] arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah last night.

A huge reception was given to the Libyan nationals at Tripoli International Airport, where they received a warm welcome and were presented with bouquets of flowers while the crowd chanted revolutionary slogans such as "Long Live the Great Al Fatih Revolution" and "Long Live the Leader of the Great Al Fatih Revolution," the internationalist revolutionary, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, champion of the oppressed and liberator of the peoples.

A number of these nationals said in statements made to JANA's correspondent after their arrival aboard two planes

of the Libyan Arab airlines that they were ready to carry out the order to die in the defense of the causes of freedom and in support of the oppressed in the world. They added that they absolutely rejected the desperate attempts made by Habre to force them to abandon their principles and take the path of treachery because they remained committed and because they believed that the Great Al Fatih Revolution was the revolution of freedom and emancipation.

They went on to say that the places of their detention in Ndjamena were located around the house and office of Habre in a bid by the latter to use them as a shield against any Libyan attack. They also said that they were like hostages in Habre's hands to prevent the Great Jamahiriyah from attacking him.

Morocco

CSFR Prime Minister Arrives for Official Visit

LD0312143290 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 3 (MAP)—Czech Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa arrived here Sunday evening on a two-day official visit to Morocco.

Calfa is accompanied by the first vice minister of foreign trade, the vice minister of foreign affairs, the governor of the Czech Central Bank and other personalities.

The Czech premier will confer with Moroccan officials.

Calfa came from Algeria where he conferred this week end with Algerian Premier [title as received] Mouloud Hamrouche and other officials on bilateral relations, the Middle East issue and the Gulf crisis.

Meets Prime Minister Laraki

LD0312163790 Prague CTK in English 1348 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat Dec 3 (CTK Correspondent)—Czechoslovak Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa opened talks with is Moroccan colleague Azeddine Laraki after laying wreaths at the Mausoleum to King Muhammad V at the start of his official visit to Morocco earlier today.

During the visit the Czechoslovak delegation, the highest ever on the state level to visit Morocco, is to seek the promotion of commercial and economic cooperation.

Speaking to Czechoslovak journalists Calfa described Morocco as a stabilized country with a market economy which possesses precious raw materials such as phosphates, iron ore with a high metal content and nonferrous metals ores. It might also be one of the routes for the transport of Algerian natural gas to Czechoslovakia.

It is no less important for the development of mutual contacts that the two countries take the same stands on many international issues, including the Persian Crisis, Calfa said.

The premier arrived in Morocco last night from Oran where he wound up his two-day official visit to Algeria. Calfa is yet to visit Tunisia.

Outlines Cooperation Projects

LD0412090290 Prague CTK in English 2010 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat Dec 3 (CTK correspondent)—Visiting Czechoslovak Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa and his Moroccan counterpart Azeddine Laraki agreed here today that the two countries' relations are weak and unsatisfactory. They described Calfa's visit as an opportunity for their extension.

They entrusted representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Trade Ministry as well as representatives of financial institutions to hold concrete talks on proposals submitted by Czechoslovakia.

Calfa proposed abolition of visas in travels between the two countries for diplomats and businessmen and pointed out that an agreement on the prevention of double taxation has not yet been concluded between Morocco and Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak premier briefed his Moroccan colleague about the political development after the November 1989 velvet revolution, which overthrew the communist regime in Czechoslovakia, and explained in detail the progress of the economic reform. He said the present economic situation in the country was difficult, due to its dependence on power supplies from the Soviet Union, and described seeking "new directions" in its economy as the main task. This effort is also reflected in his current Maghreb tour.

In Morocco Czechoslovakia can build complete plants, dams, irrigation systems and highways and supply machines for the mining industry. It would wish to cooperate in the footwear, leather and textile industries, in the production of colour televisions and assembly of tractors.

The Moroccan premier expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with all Central and East European countries. He welcomed the changes in Czechoslovakia and expressed the hope that the current visit would be a good starting point for the extension of mutual ties.

Calfa spoke about Czechoslovakia's stand on the Persian Gulf crisis. Laraki said that it should be settled in a peaceful way in harmony with international laws.

King Hassan II of Morocco today accepted an invitation of Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel for a visit to Czechoslovakia which was conveyed to him by Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa who is currently on an official visit to Morocco.

After the talks Calfa held earlier today with his Moroccan colleague Azeddine Laraki, he was received by president of the Moroccan parliament (Majlis al-Nuwab) Ahmed Osman who acquainted him with the work of his legislative body.

King Hassan Receives U.S. Delegation

LD0312143890 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 3 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Saturday [1 December] afternoon a U.S. Congress delegation led by chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives, Dante Fascell.

The audience was attended by State Minister Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan Ambassador to Washington Mohamed Belkhayat and U.S. Ambassador to Rabat Michael Ussery.

The U.S. delegation which left Rabat Sunday had conferred Friday with Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki and with speaker of the Moroccan Parliament on bilateral relations and latest developments on the international scene.

Sudan

Iraq's Hammadi Arrives With Saddam Message

JN0412162690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, arrived in Khartoum today leading a delegation on a brief visit to Sudan.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Khartoum, Sa'dun Hammadi said that he will deliver a written message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and prime minister. The message deals with Arab issues and bilateral relations, and the exchange of information on pan-Arab issues and the current Arab situation. The message also seeks to learn about Sudan's views on the issues to be discussed.

Tunisia

CSFR Prime Minister Arrives For Talks

Agenda Previewed

LD0412145990 Prague CTK in English 1410 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis Dec 4 (special CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa arrived here today on the third and final stop on his tour of North African countries for discussions that will include cooperation in tourism and the possibility of supplying Algerian natural gas to Europe via Tunisia.

The purpose of the tour, which included also visits to Algeria and Morocco, is to expand Czechoslovakia's economic and trade relations with the North African countries and acquire energy resources, as well as to diversify Czechoslovakia's global economic relations.

Meets Prime Minister Karoui

LD0512035490 Prague CTK in English 2216 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis Dec 4 (CTK correspondent)—Visiting Czechoslovak Premier [title as received] Marian Calfa and his Tunisian colleague Hamed Karoui discussed here today bilateral relations, namely economic cooperation and possibilities of natural gas supplies from Algeria via Tunisian territory to Europe.

The Tunisian premier said that materialization of this plan should not be a problem. He appreciated the fact that, despite its new orientation on integration into Europe, Czechoslovakia does not forget other Mediterranean states. The premiers talked about the situation in the Gulf and in the Middle East saying that conflicts must be settled in a peaceful way.

At a plenary session attended by both premiers and their entourages, Calfa spoke about the progress of the economic reform in Czechoslovakia and mentioned the possibility of abolishing visas in travels between the two countries for diplomats and businessmen.

Karoui acquainted Calfa with his country's political and economic development.

At a meeting with representatives of Tunisian businessmen, Calfa spoke about changes in Czechoslovakia's legal and economic systems and pointed out the two countries' low trade turnover.

Tunisian employers' organization Utica chairman Hedi Jilani insisted on levelling the balance of payments amounting to 20 million dollars in the nine months of 1990, in which Czechoslovakia has a surplus of one million dollars, due to reduced exports of phosphate fertilizers from Tunisia to Czechoslovakia.

Tunisian entreprencurs voiced negative as well as positive experiences from trading with Czechoslovakia. Their complaints concerned mainly obstacles in exports and imports of products.

The participants in the meeting welcomed the first Tunisian-Czechoslovak agreement on cooperation in tourism which was signed in Tunis today by Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous and Secretary of State at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry Habib Ben Yahya.

Kuwait

Amir Welcomes Bush 'Peace Initiative'

LD0412155690 London KUNA in Arabic 1148 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 4 Dec (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has declared his support for U.S. President Bush's peace initiative toward Iraq.

An official statement by the amir's court says that the declaration came in a message sent by his highness the amir to the U.S. President in reply to his message stressing the firmness of Washington's stance on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. It added that Bush's message "dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the initiative announced by President Bush as a last opportunity before UN Security Council Resolution 678 is put into effect."

Nation Can 'Wait With the World' for UN Deadline

PM0412160390 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "War...And Peace"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Once again Iraq, as usual, is placing obstacles in the way of peace—a position which is neither alien to nor unexpected from it. The fabric of the dictatorial regime based on aggression and bloodshed cannot stomach, absorb, or coexist with peace. In fact, we would not be transgressing against the truth if we said that Iraq is exploiting the world's patience with it, exactly as it is exploiting the generosity of the international community, which is giving it one chance after another to accept the peace option despite the Iraqi regime's overt intentions and unlimited aggressive, expansionist dreams and delusions.

On two successive days, the dictator of Baghdad has rejected the Security Council's historic resolution authorizing the use of military force to implement its just resolutions on the Gulf crisis, even though the resolution has shown generosity by giving the tyrant an ultimatum until 15 January to reconsider his calculations, come to his senses, and comply with the international community's will. Iraq's rejection means only one reality—it is determined to continue to proceed on the road of war to its end, because the only alternative to the rejection of the Security Council resolution is military confrontation.

A day later, in response to U.S. President George Bush's initiative—which has given the peace option a chance for dialogue to spare the region the dangers of war, although there is scant hope of the Baghdad tyrant responding to peace intentions—Iraq's response, despite its agreement in principle, was full of reservations, conditions, obstacles, and demands voiding the U.S. initiative of its true concept and peaceful meaning. The ruler of Baghdad wants to divert the peace dialogue President Bush called for as a last chance for peace from its specific objective—the resolution of the Gulf crisis. He is stupidly, intransigently, and arrogantly proposing the need for the dialogue to include other parties in the region concerned with its chronic problems. In short, he is seeking to link the the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue and the region's other issues. He also would like to return once again to the vicious circle linking Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait to Israel's withdrawal from Palestine to confuse matters, dilute the issue, and then keep the spoils of the aggression for himself.

And in his response to the U.S. initiative, the murderer of Iraq did not forget to talk about the policy of threats and to oppose what he called the method of "U.S. arrogance" in which the initiative was wrapped, demanding his right to impose measures for its implementation. In fact, he is accusing President Bush of using it as a mere formal step that has no concept!!

We wonder and so does the world: Does that response include any real desire for peace? And can the method of evasion and deception he maintains lead to a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis? Or has the bloodthirsty dictator still not realized that the world is serious about implementing its international resolutions to settle the Kuwait issue?

Anyhow, we have been patient enough and have steadfastly and resolutely withstood the past period's bitterness and harshness, and it will not hurt us to wait with the world until the middle of next month for the last chance for peace: either complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there, or war, which is the only language the tyrant of Baghdad understands.

Saudi Arabia

Saddam Urged To Take 'Last Chance for Peace'

PM0412143790 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 Dec 90 p 3

[Editorial: "World Determined To Put an End to Aggression"]

[Text] While the international community welcomes and emphasizes its support for the historic resolution adopted by the UN Security Council authorizing the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait within the specified ultimatum, the Iraqi regime—as usual—continues its pompous and intransigent position by refusing to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions reflecting the world's desire for a peace based on respect for international legitimacy.

We do not know what the Iraqi regime was expecting from the international community! Was it expecting the world to bless its unacceptable aggression against Kuwait and to reward the aggressor, Saddam Husayn, for the aggression that he committed in blatant violation of all international charters and conventions?!

Can the Iraqi regime continue its arrogance and defiance of the international community, which has unanimously agreed on the need to put an end to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait by every means, including the use of force, to force Saddam to abandon his delusions and reckless dreams?

World reactions have shown that the Security Council resolution reflects the growing international determination to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait by forcing Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait if he does not withdraw of his own accord before the 15 January ultimatum. And Saddam must realize that the world resorted to that resolution only after it tired of the Iraqi tyrant's maneuvers and refusal to withdraw from Kuwait.

The Iraqi regime's rejection of that resolution and the other resolutions issued by the Security Council since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait not only affirm the Iraqi regime's continuing disregard of all the peace calls, but also affirm that the Iraqi regime seems determined to continue its contempt for the lives of the Iraqi people's sons and to escalate matters to push them into a destructive war.

The ultimatum specified by the Security Council for the Iraqi regime to abandon its intransigence and heed the voice of reason by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring Kuwaiti legitimacy affirms the international community's eagerness to exhaust all peace opportunities and maintain the peaceful solution option before turning to the military settlement.

And if the Iraqi regime does not submit to the will for peace, it will be compelled to leave Kuwait by force. This is because liberating Kuwait cannot be subject to any bargaining, and the Kuwaiti people's right to their homeland cannot be subject to any procrastination.

We hope that the Iraqi regime will realize that all its attempts to close the doors to a peaceful solution are doomed to failure, because the issue is a world issue and must win, even if it proves necessary to use force to end the aggressor's arrogance and impose peace by force.

The world has sent its ultimatum to Saddam Husayn, so will he waste the last chance for peace and continue to reject it, or will he in the end heed the voice of reason before it is too late?

Persists in 'Procrastination'

PM0412115790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 19

[Editorial: "Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] Four months have elapsed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait without any evidence of the Baghdad regime's readiness to backtrack on that abominable crime or respond to the clear, firm international position rejecting all that has happened in Kuwait since 2 August.

The historic resolution adopted by the Security Council yesterday came to reflect the entire world's cohesion in the face of Iraq's violation of all international conventions, laws, and charters as well as its insistence on the need to move the invaders out of Kuwait by all the means available.

The Iraqi regime's rejection of the Security Council resolution was no surprise, as President Saddam Husayn is "expert" in matters of intransigence, rejection, and arrogance. He thinks he can maintain his procrastination and try to fish in muddied waters in a bid to cause a split in the unity of world ranks.

But what the UN Security Council has arrived at leaves no room for any doubt about the the international community's determination to liberate Kuwait, regardless of whether or not the ruler of Iraq agrees to withdraw.

The ultimatum specified by the Security Council as the last date for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, namely 15 January, is sufficient to prompt President Saddam Husayn to reexamine his calculations and try to return to reason and logic in order to avert a terrible war—a war for whose eruption, implications, and consequences he will be held responsible if it does erupt in the region, especially in view of U.S. President George Bush's call to Baghdad to discuss withdrawal from Kuwait, that is within the framework of the last-chance ultimatum and the exhaustion of all possible efforts before turning to the military option.

We do not think that the Iraqi regime believes itself when it talks about its ability to endure a war and achieve victory. The only victory which Saddam Husayn can achieve to spare Iraq and the region calamity is his own rapid withdrawal from Kuwait, without setting any conditions for the sake of deceiving people at some future date or making the situation difficult at other times.

As for intransigence, arrogance, and the falsification of realities, they are the weapons of the weak who know that their end is imminent. They see nothing before them except loss and confusion, which is why they resort to leveling accusations at others and trying to blame the entire world for the expected dramatic developments, for whose occurrence everyone knows they are themselves really responsible.

United Arab Emirates

Khalifah on Domestic, Regional Impact of Crisis

PM3011152690 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Nov 90 pp 14-15

[Interview with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-HAWADITH] Has the Gulf crisis inflicted stagnation on you in the business and economic field?

[Shaykh Khalifah] The Gulf crisis hit the United Arab Emirates [UAE] economy hardest in its early days. That was due to psychological rather than material factors. The banking sector in the UAE suffered because some of the deposits were withdrawn and many transfers were made. We did not intervene to stop that rush because we believe in a liberal economic system. Indeed the wisdom of my father, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, was clearly reflected in the unique method which his highness pursued in handling the various aspects of the crisis and in containing its negative aspects, not only at the political and economic levels, but at the economic level as well. He maintained the positive aspects and issued numerous directives to meet the country's needs. He also issued swift orders to all ministries and state institutions, urging them to tackle the greatest economic challenge we have ever experienced. I can proudly say that all state facilities and institutions have maintained an adequate level of steadfastness. In fact, performance figures in the various areas in this period have risen compared with previous years. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Will the Gulf crisis inevitably lead to a confrontation, or does peace still have a chance?

[Shaykh Khalifah] Since the outset, the UAE has warned about the consequences of a continuated Iraqi occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait. Our political leadership has untiringly made extensive efforts and constant contacts for the sake of a peaceful solution to the crisis, proceeding from its concern for Iraq and its people as well as Kuwait and its people. The international community has now made its decision on the need to liberate Kuwait and restore the legitimate government. This solution is subject to a specific timetable within which the efforts to seek the last chance of peace are being exhausted, and we hope they will succeed. The road to salvation is clear, and Baghdad, instead of wasting time, must stop constantly rejecting the existing peace initiatives and opportunities in order to spare Iraq and the entire region the calamities of war. This, because the world will not content itself with the present military deployment to prove its earnest rejection of the aggression. Will Iraq deal with these indications flexibly, wisely, and rationally? Will it realize the scale of the imminent danger, submit to the international community's will, and promptly withdraw from Kuwait? This is what the Arabs—all the Arabs—hope will happen, so that the Arab system can quickly recover its ability and to influence the course of events.

[AL-HAWADITH] When will the foreign forces evacuate the UAE?

[Shaykh Khalifah] The word "evacuation" applies to invading forces that colonize others' territory by force and against the people's will. The fraternal Arab forces and friendly foreign forces came to the region only after Iraq's invasion of the fraternal state of Kuwait and real threats to the region's states. The pompous talk about the foreign presence and the allegations made by those promoting it are meaningless, because they are based on no law or understanding of the circumstances that led to it. The Arab states' and friendly forces came to the UAE and other Gulf states in response to a request from the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in anticipation of any emergency in order to deter anyone harboring evil and hostility. The reasons for these forces' coming to the region still stand. They are the continued threats and deployments. These forces are prepared to go home once they are asked to do so. That is agreed and there is no disagreement about it.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is Gulf coordination being maintained at an adequate level?

[Shaykh Khalifah] Coordination at the various levels among the GCC states has never been as strong as it is now in terms of strong solidarity, continuous consultation, and strong cohesion. The objective is to face the danger and to believe in the common destiny binding the GCC states, which are undoubtedly an inseparable part of their Arab nation. We are now witnessing comprehensive cooperation and a united front unparalleled in history. [passage omitted]

President Receives Pakistani Premier's Message

NC0512104890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif dealing with bilateral relations and cooperation in the petroleum field.

Pakistani Petroleum Minister Nisar Ali Khan delivered the message during his meeting with Shaykh Zayid in Abu Dhabi today.

His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister, a number of ministers, and Pakistani acting Charge d'Affaires Zulfiqar Ali Shah also attended the meeting.

Saddam Welcomes King Husayn, Yemen's Al-Bid

JN0412205890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2032 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn headed those receiving His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. al-Bid.

Also receiving them were 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Mr. Qusay Saddam Husayn; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by a delegation made up of His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn; His Highness Amir Talal Bin-Muhammad; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the king's political adviser; and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid is accompanied by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Saddam, King, Al-Bid Talk

JN0412210590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2041 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn; His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal; 'Ali Salim al-Bid; and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who arrived in Baghdad earlier today; have met for in-depth consultations and discussion of the situation in the region in light of the Iraqi-American dialogue.

The conferees welcomed the dialogue and declared that they favored working on Arab and international levels to resolve all problems in the region, particularly the Palestine question, and to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace on the basis of international legitimacy and the rules of justice and fairness in accordance with the same criteria and principles.

The conferees expressed appreciation for Iraq's position and called on the Arab countries to play an active and efficient role and to use all their political capabilities to achieve a comprehensive solution to the issues of the region, especially the Palestine question.

They stressed the need for initiating Arab-Arab dialogue, and urged the world community to benefit from the positive development in the situation to support efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution in the region in a manner that will safeguard world peace and uphold the international inclination to solve world problems through dialogue, and will entrench the foundations of peace, justice, and equal cooperation.

The meeting was attended for Iraq by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

For fraternal Jordan, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir, Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

On the fraternal Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, and by Palestinian Ambassador in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

For fraternal Yemen, the meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Al-Bid Comments on Talks

JN0512135990 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 5, INA—Yemeni Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid said yesterday quadripartite meeting in Baghdad resulted in constructive outcome along the path of re-instating just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Speaking to INA before leaving Baghdad after a two day visit, the Yemeni leader expressed satisfaction over meeting President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat saying that we will continue holding such meetings with all Arab leaders for the sake of restoring the unity of Arab rank and removing all factors of disruption and differences among Arab leaders which had taken place following the Cairo summit.

The Yemeni leader stressed the importance of calling for an Arab dialogue in which all Arab leaders take part to achieve a comprehensive settlement to all issues of the region, especially the Palestine issue.

The Yemeni leader further added that yesterday Baghdad meeting was also after endeavouring to avoid the region disasters of a destructive war which if it breaks out would affect the entire Arab region and everybody.

Mr. al-Bid before leaving Baghdad conferred with Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council on promoting the existing bilateral relations.

Mr. al-Bid was accompanied by Yemeni Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

American Indian Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

Leader Comments

JN3011204790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—A delegation of American Indians arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days.

Mr. Kavild Crass Rob [name as received], head of the delegation, told INA that the aim of the visit is to declare the solidarity of American Indians with the Iraqi people, who are justly opposing evil forces in the world so as to establish peace and stability in the region. He stressed that there is a need for dialogue to resolve all the problems of the region within an Arab framework in isolation from foreign intervention, which would increase tension and ignite a destructive war.

The delegation was received by officials of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

Meets Ramadan

JN0412171090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received an American Indian delegation led by Kavild Crass Rob. [name as received]

The first deputy prime minister declared that a genuine peace is one that achieves dignity and sovereignty for the people away from all forms of slavery, occupation, and interference in internal affairs.

He referred to the practical measures adopted by Iraq to provide a healthy atmosphere for dialogue and negotiations to achieve a peace based on justice, right, and international law, and to find a solution to all problems of the region so that it can live safely and free of occupation and foreign domination.

The American Indian delegation stressed the need to pursue all means to ward off the specter of war. It stated that human responsibility requires sincere efforts to establish peace in the world and to exclude all means of war and aggression. The delegation indicated that American and world public opinion want peace and reject war.

Envoy to U.S. on Bush Initiative, Public Mood

JN0412204090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Mashshat, Iraqi ambassador in Washington, by unidentified Amman radio reporter in the studio on 4 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The peaceful trends and elements declared by Iraq in the 12 August initiative are being enhanced. Perhaps the most prominent development in this regard is France's recent position on an international conference to settle Middle East issues once the so-called Gulf crisis has been resolved. What is your comment?

[Al-Mashshat] I would like to remind you that Iraq has always called and continues to call for a negotiated peaceful solution to all basic Middle East issues. Iraq is working actively in this direction. You may recall that following President Mitterrand's speech at the United Nations, Iraq declared that the initiative had positive elements. We asked the French for clarification. We also suggested that they listen to some of our remarks on this initiative. Consequently, the call for an international conference to resolve all regional problems is a basic matter that we support.

[Reporter] How do you assess the current atmosphere in the United States following President Bush's acceptance of Iraq's call for dialogue?

[Al-Mashshat] From my observation of the political, informational, and popular atmosphere here, I sense the number of people opposing war is growing, despite the power of the Zionist lobby which is calling for war. The voices of the Israeli lobby are still being raised, but more among the general public are calling for peace and denouncing war tendencies. Today, I saw the latest poll published this morning on the American people's opinion of President Bush's inititaive. About 95 percent of those polled supported the initative. Actually, when the American people are acquainted with the facts about the region and know that war does not serve U.S. interests but expansionist Israeli interests—when these facts are placed before the American people—they will very strongly oppose war. Consequently, I say there are more voices, more articles, more lectures at universities and elsewhere in favor of avoiding a military solution. Moreover, most of those testifying before the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee hearings were against military action. This indicates the importance of a negotiated solution as called for by Iraq, a peaceful solution that spares the region from catastrophes and leads to a comprehensive and just solution to all regional problems. This, of course, includes Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory, from the Golan, and from Lebanon. These issues should be addressed simultaneuosly in a just manner.

[Reporter] When do you expect the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and President Bush to take place?

[Al-Mashshat] So far, I do not have a definite date. But I expect the meeting to take place next week. So far I do not have a definite date.

[Reporter] Some people fear that Iraq and the United States might reach a comprehensive solution to the Gulf crisis. Do you expect them to sabotage and thwart efforts toward such a solution?

[Al-Mashshat] Yes, the Israeli and Zionist voices in America have begun to be heard against President Bush's initiative. They have begun to say the initiative should not

be given any chance to succeed. You should expect Israel's hostility to continue to obstruct all peaceful efforts. We believe Israel will not hesitate to adopt any measure to strike at this trend toward peaceful negotiation.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Al-Mashshat] Thank you.

Commentary on Need for 'Serious' Dialogue

JN0512113390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2250 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Voice of Egypt of Arabism broadcast: "Unattributed talk"]

[Text] After the new American resolution was issued by the UN Security Council on the use of force against Iraq, Bush has come up with an initiative to open dialogue between Iraq and America. Bush's initiative is a submission to Iraq's demand, on which it has insisted and is still insisting; namely, the need to open a serious dialogue on the region's issues. This is because the Gulf crisis, as they call it, is in fact a reflection of a chronic crisis, the Palestine question. It is also a reflection of the great disparity between rich and poor in the region. The proposed dialogue cannot achieve its aims of reaching the aspired understanding and entering the stage of peace unless it is comprehensive and covers all these issues.

Israel's occupation of vast areas in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan should find its way to a just solution. Moreover, the monopoly of wealth by a handful of the region's rulers at the expense of the starving millions is something that cannot last long. The proposed Iraqi-American meeting must discuss all these issues clearly and frankly because they are interrelated in a way that they cannot be divided, especially since they all belong to the Arab nation. The Palestine question, the occupied Arab territories, and the sharp disparity between rich and poor are all sensitive issues that affect the fabric of Arab society.

If the world wants to establish a new world order, if America respects the international legitimacy in its true sense, and if peace and law are to prevail in the world, then it is necessary to discuss all the region's issues in a spirit of responsibility and concern for averting catastrophes so that peace can truly prevail, and so as to eliminate the hotbeds of tension which threaten the world between now and then.

U.S. Interests Worldwide Targeted if War Starts

JN0312083590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that the fact that President Bush has changed the objectives of his military buildup more than once confirms that his true objective is to control Arab oil sources and oil routes.

In its main article today, the newspaper affirms that Bush wants to turn this control into a means of oppression against the new forces which political and economic givens have qualified as emerging centers of power—particularly united Europe and Japan—as both these emergent powers depend on Arab oil, and also to protect the Zionist entity.

The essence of the U.S. policy and its practices, therefore, is to bury alive the Iraqi experience and all it represents, such as Iraq's power to threaten the Zionist entity, and its cultural pan-Arab mission aimed at giving the Arab nation its proper position on the international map. The resolutions issued by the Security Council are nothing but a cover for this policy.

The paper notes that Iraq's concern for peace does not mean fear to confront the invaders or accepting the humiliation the American dictatorship is attempting to impose on it. Right is on our side and whoever has right on his side cannot be defeated by threats or use of force.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that if the enemies' option is war, then Iraq will fight in a way that will lift the heads of Arabs and good Muslims high. If Bush chooses to mass his troops in an armed confrontation, he will see what he had not expected to see and what exceeds the most optimistic accounts and expectations since U.S. interests all over the world will become targets for attacks.

'Double Standards' of Superpowers Rejected

JN0312125190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Iraq, which rectified the mistakes of modern history committed by the colonialists, has never faltered in demanding the rights of the Arab nation. This has been demonstrated in its rejection of the double standards the superpowers use to pass judgment on various issues.

In an article today, the newspaper said that ever since the U.S. Administration massed the armies and fleets with which it invaded the Arabian Peninsula, we in Iraq have been drawing attention to the fact, no longer unknown to many, that when the U.S. Administration reacted so quickly, tensely, and emotionally, it was not proceeding from its concern for so-called international legitimacy; it was acting on the basis of its immediate best interests. Matters are starting to become clear to many sides in the world about the honesty of U.S. intentions. Many sides have started to wonder why U.S. President George Bush changes his goals every day and why he and his allies the Zionists and the representatives of ancient British colonialism have started to talk about guaranteeing future security, Iraq's possession of weapons of deterrence, and preserving the U.S. way of life, after talking earlier about an alleged Iraqi danger threatening Saudi Arabia.

The paper said that all this proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the old aggressive intentions used the events of 2 August as a pretext to come to the surface. However, all the Arab masses know very well that Iraq, which rectified the mistakes of modern history committed by the colonialists, is serious about demanding the rights of the Arab nation and serious about rejecting the double standards used by the superpowers to judge issues.

The masses also know that Iraq's logic has been unified and crystal clear without maneuvers, despite all the threats and declarations it has been subjected to.

It added that one principle governs Iraqi behavior, namely the principle of justice and sticking to the principles it believes in. It will not abandon this if the enemies try to rally against it in any way. Iraq is capable of preserving its balanced course and the enemies will have to choke on the poisons of defeat. We shall triumph.

Papers Denounce U.S. Plan To Starve Nation

JN0512102990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH accuses the Bush administration of turning the economic blockade into a war of starvation in order to expose the Iraqi people to genocide.

In its editorial today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the U.S. Administration has imposed its will on the Security Council and has, for four months, been blocking the dispatch of food, medicine, and baby milk, which had been ordered by Iraq from many sources or were on their way to Iraq.

The paper adds: One of the direct results of this terrible crime, according to Health Ministry statistics, is the death of 1,416 Iraqi children under five years of age because of malnutrition and the lack of milk, medicine, and vaccines.

AL-THAWRAH says that as a result of the American war of starvation against Iraq, certain repercussions and negative effects have also appeared to threaten the lives of very large numbers of children, women, and elderly.

The paper notes the total prohibition under the international law of all measures that may expose POW's during wars and armed disputes to any form of starvation, harm, and material and psychological suffering. It also wonders about the driving force behind the international community's indifference to these facts, its abandonment of human principles and values, and its participation in the crime of the age.

AL-THAWRAH urges the world's peoples and leaders to demand the exemption of food, baby milk, and medicine from the list of banned commodities. It adds that this trend should be coupled by bold action that is independent of the White House's will.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ also expresses astonishment over Bush's hostile behavior toward the Iraqi people under the cover of legitimacy and international organizations.

In its editorial today, the paper stresses that relations among nations should be on humanitarian and solidarity bases. It adds that all nations in the world and their institutions and popular, professional, and humanitarian organizations are required to act against the policy of terrorism and killing under siege. It also affirms that through this behavior, the U.S. president is pursuing the policy of the old racists and their likes in this age—a policy represented in blocking the dispatch of food, milk, and other necessities of life, reinforcing his troops in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, and leveling threats against Iraq.

Paper on U.S. Expulsion of INA Correspondent

JN0412211090 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec.4, INA—The Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said here today that the United States expelled IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Washington, the only Iraqi reporter in the U.S. This happens at a time when the deputy editor of an Iraqi daily, AL-QADISIYAH, has been waiting for a visa to Britain for some 36 days now, but to no avail. Also, an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent has been waiting for an entry visa to France for weeks. Earlier, Iraq's press attaches in Washington and Paris were expelled.

All those expelled or denied visa are journalists doing their routine media work. In accordance with all norms, denying these reporters their right to perform their duties is but an uncivilized attitude. This is more so when the countries concerned boast of being advocates of freedom of expression and democracy, countries which are supposed to guarantee everybody the right to speak.

Many of the foreign reporters who enter Iraq have been Americans and British who have been free to interview people from all walks of life but whose dispatches have sometimes twisted facts about this country. Still, Iraq went on with its policy to grant entry visas to journalists, no matter what their nationalities are, because Iraq has nothing to hide.

What is it that makes the U.S. British and French authorities afraid and decline issuing visas to Iraqi journalists? Are they afraid that outside journalists would report the anti-war sentiment in the West? Or do they want to hide something?.

It is probably another, undeclared, part of the blockade on Iraq or maybe another type of xenophobia towards Arab journalism. Either way, these authorities should be aware that facts cannot be held for long from the public.

Speaker Appeals to Perez de Cuellar on Blockade

JN0412170190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1511 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Message from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency the UN Secretary General, best greetings:

The U.S. Armed Forces and the forces of the allied states have invaded the Arab region in the Arabian Gulf and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. The UN Security Council took no measures; no resolution has been issued regarding this invasion, which is seen as an act of war. However, the council issued many resolutions to support and consolidate the position of the invading forces and tighten the economic embargo against Iraq. The United States had a major role in the issuance of those resolutions and their implementation, without being authorized by the UN Security Council, inasmuch as the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council are addressed to the UN member states and do not single out the United States to implement them. This breaches these resolutions and is a violation of Clause 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter. We present these facts to your excellency, and appeal to you in the name of human principles and in the implementation of the UN Charter and international charters to intervene and exercise the powers assigned to you by the UN Security Council and the UN Charter. We appeal to you to put an end to these hostile acts against the Iraqi people and to submit a report to the UN Security Council to explain facts.

The Iraqi people are looking forward to a brave and positive role from you—a role that is in line with your international status, knowing that you support right and justice. On this occasion, we ask your excellency the following question: Does the embargo imposed on the food, medicine, and infants' milk supplied to the people of Iraq agree with international law and human norms? If the answer is no, why do you not so state and why do you not criticize or work against the embargo? Your siding with justice and right will be recorded by history as a support for and protection of human principles and rights.

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly.

UN Delegate Says Initiative 'Only Solution'

JN0412081290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The United Nations, 3 Dec (INA)—Iraq reaffirmed today that a drastic solution to the Palestine question and the termination of the Israeli occupation are the only means to resolve all Middle East crises.

This came in Iraq's speech to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] during its deliberations on the Palestine question.

The Iraqi UN delegate added: All regional events confirm that there is a link between the so-called Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. We affirm that the only solution lies in Iraq's initiative of 12 August, because the world must understand that Palestine is the major concern.

The Iraqi UN delegate said that the international community has stressed in 400 resolutions passed by the UNGA the need to resolve the Palestine question in a manner that would enable the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital and under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Iraqi delegate added: The major obstacle to the implementation of UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions lies with the United States and Israel, which have refused to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The United States, which is openly providing all types of military, economic, political, and moral support to the Zionist entity has used the veto 81 times to prevent the UNSC from passing resolutions in favor of the Palestinian people. The United States used the veto seven times this year to obstruct the passage of draft resolutions condemning Israel.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that Britain bears a historical responsibility for the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people. Britain has continued its bias against the Palestinian and Arab peoples, the Iraqi delegate added.

The Iraqi delegate went on to say that the Zionist crimes against the Palestinian people aim to liquidate the Palestine question, and consolidate the U.S.-backed and armed Zionist entity with nuclear power so that a policy of expansionism and hegemony can be imposed on the region and its natural resources. He said that the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy is being directed against Iraq to silence it and weaken its military and political capabilities. He added: The former Kuwaiti rulers abetted an economic conspiracy against Iraq—a conspiracy that finally resulted in the occupation by the U.S. troops of Islamic holy places in the Arabian Peninsula.

Assembly Appeals to Parliaments on Blockade

JN0412195690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The National Assembly has stated that by imposing a blockade on the Iraqi people, the United States and allied states have acted in a way that does not conform with international law, human rights, and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

In an appeal addressed today to the parliamentarians who represent the people of the civilized world, the National Assembly explained that through the blockade

and failure to abide by international laws and honor human agreements and rights, the United States and the allied forces have become directly responsible for the death of children in particular and of crimes against mankind in general.

The assembly declared that the unjust blockade imposed by the United States and its allies against the Iraqi people has led to a manifest shortage of medicine, food, and infant's milk, and caused many deaths, particularly among children and sick old people. This although the UN resolutions did not legally ban the delivery of food and infants' milk to the Iraqi people. This means that the United States and the allied forces have acted in a way that does not conform with international law, human rights, and the Geneva Convention of 1949.

The appeal stressed that in view of the irresponsibility and inhumanity of the United States and its allies, the representatives of the people of the world should act through their parliaments to expose these tragedies to world opinion and to pressure governments and companies producing medicine, food, and infants' milk to allow the delivery of these basic requirements to the Iraqi people. The appeal said: We hope that the representatives of the people of the world will make efforts with the United Nations and ask the UN secretary general the following question: Does the embargo imposed on food, medicine, and infants' milk supplied to the Iraqi people agree with international law and human norms? If the answer is no, why does not the secretary general so state and criticize and work against the embargo?

The assembly said that the representatives of the Iraqi people hoped that representatives of the people of the world will greatly contribute toward this honorable, blessed humanitarian act. [passage omitted]

Expert Says No Nuclear Arms Before Five Years

AU0412141290 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Paris, Dec 4 (AFP)—Iraq could develop a nuclear weapon in five years but not within six months as some U.S. reports have asserted, French Secretary General of National Defense (SGND) Guy Fougier said Tuesday.

U.S. intelligence reports that an Iraqi nuclear arm could be ready by the spring time "did not seem backed up by very solid proof", he said during a debate in Paris.

The deadline has been measured until now "in terms of years and not in terms of months," he said.

Mr. Fougier, whose office comes under that of Prime Minister Michel Rocard, acts as an inter-ministerial coordinator for various defense, military, civilian and economic issues.

He is charged notably with following the progress of international crises and conflicts and is involved in international defense negotiations.

Document on U.S.-Kuwaiti Plot Cited

JN0212111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—An official document published in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH today reveals that former Kuwaiti Ruler Jabir al-Ahmad urged the U.S. Administration to destroy sophisticated Iraqi weapons.

A handwritten letter addressed by Ahmad al-Ibrahim, former ambassador of Jabir's regime in Brussels, to the under secretary of his Foreign Ministry reveals that Jabir al-Ahmad asked the White House in a letter he sent to the U.S. Administration on 26 July 1990 not to remain content with economic pressures to thwart Iraq's technological progress in the military domain.

Al-Ibrahim quoted Matuts, European commissioner for Middle East affairs [name and title as received], and another official named J. A. McGuinn [name as received] as saying, during a meeting he had with them at the end of July, that the U.S. Administration believed that economic pressures might affect the growth of Iraqi military industries if Egypt and Saudi Arabia played the roles agreed with them in this respect.

Al-Ibrahim informed the under secretary of his Foreign Ministry that the European official McGuinn told him that the United States agreed with the Egyptian president that the latter would apply pressure on Iraq through the Arab Cooperation Council to halt any potential cooperation and to influence Iraq.

The former ambassador relayed to his government U.S. instructions asking the former regime of Jabir al-Ahmad to play a greater role in harassing Iran, adding that "further instructions will reach us in this regard from the United States through special channels."

Nation Said To Launch Civil Defense Program

NC0412202690 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have launched a large-scale civil defense program for the population to defend itself against the dangers of enemy actions, Iraqi television reported late Tuesday.

It said 20 training centers were opened in Baghdad and had begun receiving Iraqis "to brief them on the dangers of catastrophes," in the Gulf where a multinational force is massed against Iraq.

The defense program, which is to be pursued in other Iraqi cities, was the subject of two meetings chaired by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, officials here said.

The exercise is in response to the foreign military buildup in the region triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi authorities had in recent years built several shelters where four million people lived during the Iran-Iraq war.

Christian Conference for Peace Opens 3 Dec

Chaldean Archbishop Arrives

JN3011203190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—A delegation representing several Christian men of religion in the world arrived in Baghdad this evening to participate in the Christian conference for peace to begin in Baghdad on Monday.

Chaldean Archbishop in the United States Ibrahim Ibrahim said in a statement to INA that the American people led by the men of religion do not want war. And the evidence is that the percentage of President Bush's supporters is declining. He added that Americans reject the unjust economic blockade imposed on the people and children of Iraq because it is an inhuman and uncivilized act.

The Chaldean archbishop stated that the recent resolution adopted by the Security Council against Iraq was taken under the U.S. Administration's influence and pressure to ignite a destructive war rejected by all heavenly laws. He added that with this resolution, the Security Council has departed from its true duties for which it was founded—that is, to ensure security, peace, and stability in the region, and not to declare wars on people.

The delegation was received by Awqaf and Religious Ministry officials.

Pope To Send Message

JN0312091290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1725 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The work of the Christian Peace Conference will begin the day after tomorrow, Monday, with the participation of delegations representing all Christian denominations in the world under the slogan "Blessed be the Peacemakers."

The conference, convened by the heads of Christian denominations in Iraq, will last for three days and discuss the threats of aggression posed to Iraq against the background of the U.S. and foreign military buildup in the [Arabian] Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, which pose a flagrant threat to the peace among peoples dictated by all heavenly religions.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the heads of world churches, European and U.S. churches, and the leaders of Christian denominations in India and the Middle East—including Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iran—will participate in the Christian peace conference. In addition, Mother Theresa, Nobel peace prize winner, will also attend the conference.

The agency has learned that His Holiness Pope John Paul II will address a message to the Christian peace conference and send an envoy to attend the meetings of the conference.

Saddam To Patronize Festival

JN0112183090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 1 Dec 90

[Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the Voice of World Peace From Iraq festival will begin in Baghdad tomorrow, with the participation of friendly world delegations. The festival will go on for two days.

During the festival called for by international organizations supporting Iraq in coordination with the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, thousands will sing for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace throughout the world.

Art, sports, and cultural activities will be shown at the festival illustrating Iraq's sincere desire to establish a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region, and expressing the massive popular support around the world for its peace policy versus the evil intentions of the United States and its sweeping desire to ignite war in the region.

Minister Opens Conference

JN0312134790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Christian Peace Conference started its meetings in Baghdad today under the slogan "Blessed be the Peacemakers." The conference will continue for three days.

The conference, in which delegations representing the heads of Christian denominations in the world, was opened with prayers and singing the hymn of "Blessed be the Peacemakers" chanted by the choirs of churches in Iraq.

'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, in a speech at the opening session, conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn and his wishes for the success of the conference. He said this conference reflects to what extent true religion interacts with the living human conscience, which only responds to good will, love, justice, and peace. He added that religion is the guarantee for awakening other good intentions in the human conscience.

Minister Meets Clergymen

JN0312203290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, today met with a number of delegations taking part in the international Christian conference for peace, which began its proceedings in Baghdad.

During the meeting, means of bolstering the Christian clergymen's role in exposing the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist

invasion of the Arab territories and strengthening the principles of peace declared by President Saddam Husayn were discussed.

The Christian clergymen hailed the firm, principled stands of Iraq and President Saddam Husayn toward the achievement of peace in the region and the whole world.

Japanese Official Arrives for Peace Festival

JN0212204590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Hussein [Antonio] Inoki [name as received], member of the Japanese House of Councillors, arrived here today to participate in the Voice of World Peace Festival which is due to begin tomorrow and continue for two days.

In a statement to INA, the member of the Japanese House of Councillors expressed his as well as the delegation's pleasure over visiting Baghdad and participating in the Voice of World Peace Festival, which will be the first step toward the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the Arab region.

The member of the House of Councillors condemned the recent UN Security Council resolution against Iraq, affirming that negotiations and dialogue are the best means to resolve the current situation in the region.

The delegation accompanying Muhammad Hussein Inoki is made up of sports, art, and musical groups that will participate in the festival.

Urges World Efforts for Peace

JN0212135890 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 2, INA—Mr. Muhammed Hussein [Antonio] Inoki, member of the Japanese Senate [as received], stressed that the entire world looked forward to establishing real peace in the Arab region, based on dialogue and negotiation and not military threats or force.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Inoki called on all formal and popular forces around the world to intensify efforts in support of peace to spare the international community the eruption of a destructive war.

He said that their presence in Baghdad, as part of the activities of the Voice of International Peace Festival activities, was in confirmation to world's peaceful public opinion for preserving international peace and security.

Reporters Barred From Reunion

OW0312050790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 3 KYODO—More than 30 Japanese hostages were allowed to meet with their families at a hotel in Baghdad on Sunday after they were transferred from strategic points in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, Japanese sources said Monday.

The Japanese hostages and their families stayed together at the Al Mansour Melia Hotel on Sunday night. But Iraqi authorities barred reporters from covering the family reunion, three months after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Several Japanese hostages were told by Iraqi officials that they were to be freed when they left the strategic locations where they were detained as "human shields" to deter a possible attack by multinational forces in the Persian Gulf, according to the Japanese sources.

But officials from the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad said they had not yet been informed if the Iraqi Government had released the Japanese hostages.

Some 38 people from 36 Japanese families who arrived in Baghdad on Saturday and Sunday were transported to the Al Mansour Melia Hotel to meet the hostages.

Most of the visitors were accompanied by Antonio Inoki, a professional Japanese wrestler and a member of the House of Councillors, who organized a two-day "Festival of Peace" in Baghdad.

The Japanese-Iraqi festival started on Sunday with soccer games and included rock concerts and traditional entertainment from Japan and Iraq.

Officials Criticize UN

JN0512070390 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Dec 4, INA—Several Japanese officials voiced full solidarity with the Iraqi people and confirmed their support for Iraq's firm policy and its aspirations for just and lasting peace in the region.

In statements to INA, they stressed their rejection of the use of force as a means to settle regional and international disputes and warned of its grave consequences, which could largely affect world security and political and economic stability.

Asked about his opinion of the recent unfair U.N. resolution, the vice-chairman of the Japanese Socialist Democratic Party and member of the Japanese Parliament replied that the Security Council should have adopted a resolution calling for the holding of a dialogue or negotiations on peaceful and humanitarian bases to save the region a destructive war. [passage omitted]

Speaker Meets U.S., Japanese

JN0512070290 Baghdad INA in English 1043 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 4, INA—Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih met here last night the American popular reconciliation delegation now on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, Mr. Salih stressed that the Iraqi people insists on dialogue to solve problems and establish peace in the region and rejects any intervention in its internal affairs and attempts to force it give concessions over its national and historical rights.

Members of the delegation expressed pleasure over visiting Iraq confirming the necessity of resorting to dialogue and consultations in resolving problems instead of aggression and threats which would only lead to a destructive consequences.

On the other hand, speaker of the National Assembly met last night member of the Japanese Parliament, Muhammad Hussein [Antonio] Inoki and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Mr. Salih stressed that determination of Iraq and the Arab nation would frustrate all Zionist-imperialist schemes aimed at imposing hegemony over the nation's riches.

Mr. Inoki renewed support for Iraq's call for peace and rejection of the logic of war.

Wives of 'Guests' Express Solidarity

JN0412202490 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 4, INA—Wives of the Japanese and British nationals hosted by Iraq expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people and strong rejection to the policy of threat and use of military force as a means to solve issues.

Speaking in the course of a meeting with chairwoman of the General Federation of the Iraqi Women, the Japanese and British ladies expressed hope over maintaining permanent and durable peace in the region.

The chairwoman acquainted the Japanese and British ladies with the human and national duties of the Iraqi woman in the defence of Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Friendship Group Chief Meets U.S. Delegation

JN0212080990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] 'Adnan Dawud Salman, chief of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, received yesterday a delegation of the American Reconciliation Committee [as heard] led by Mrs. Shelly Douglas.

The chief of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization reviewed the nature of the regional situation and developments and ways to make peace efforts succeed so as to spare the region and the world the dangers of war. He explained Iraq's firm peace policy in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative of 12 August to resolve all regional problems fairly and in accordance with uniform standards.

Mrs. Shelly Douglas expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Iraqi leadership and people for giving her and her delegation the chance to learn firsthand about the situation and to help enhance peace efforts seeking to avert war and achieve a comprehensive peace.

Ramadan Meets With Bulgarian, Polish Ambassadors

JN0312211190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Asen Zlatanov, Bulgaria's ambassador in Baghdad, at the end of his tenure. They discussed bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction with their development, and stressed both countries' concern for improving and expanding these relations in all fields for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The first deputy prime minister also received today Krzysztof Plominiski, Poland's ambassador, on the occasion of his assumption of duty as Poland's ambassador in Baghdad. During the meeting they reviewed the good relations between the two countries and stressed the joint desire to improve and expand them in a manner that will achieve the interests of the two friendly countries.

Acting Oil Minister Meets U.S. Oil Delegation

JN0312164190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, met today with Mr. Oscar Wyatt, chairman of the board of directors of Coastal Corp. and the accompanying delegation. They discussed issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by the Oil Ministry under secretary, a number of officials of the oil sector, and Mr. John Connally, former U.S. secretary of the treasury and member of Coastal Corp.

Jasim Affirms Desire for Peace to WPC Head

JN0312120290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has affirmed Iraq's serious and honest desire to achieve peace and establish balanced relations with the peoples of the world based on mutual respect.

During his reception of World Peace Council President Angeles Maharwiss [name as received] today, he said that Iraq realizes the importance of peace since it is the appropriate atmosphere for establishing normal human relations between nations.

The minister of culture and information affirmed that President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August is the

surest guarantee for realizing just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region and a manifestation of Iraq's peaceful course.

He warned that any aggression against Iraq would be a catastrophe for the aggressors and the sides that brought them to the region. He noted that the aim of the United States and its allies in desecrating the land of Mecca and al-Madinah is to gain control over its resources.

He noted the importance of dealing with the root of all issues in the region, foremost of which are the Palestine question, poverty, and dialogue between north and south as well as the role of such a dialogue in establishing a new world order.

Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that for the international order to be just and fair issues must be discussed with unified standards and bases, taking into consideration the historic background of the present disputes and problems.

He warned against the developments in the Arabian Gulf region. He said that the amount of arms and number of troops, the sensitive situation in this region which contains over 60 percent of the world's oil, and the presence of corrupt rulers who pay bribes for the sake of aggression, in addition to the desire of some sides which work on feeding the fire of war are all factors that could increase the dangers of the current situation and decrease the chances for real peace.

Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim praised the WPC's great humanitarian role aimed at establishing peace and stability in all parts of the world. He affirmed the importance of convening an WPC international peace conference to strengthen its role and influence, especially after the end of the cold war and its effects on WPC activities.

WPC President Angeles Marwiss affirmed the need to adopt single standards and reject double standards in implementing Security Council resolutions, away from selectivity.

He said that Iraq had affirmed right from the very beginning the importance of an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and of reaching a solution to all problems in the region, especially the Palestine question, so that peace can be realized and people can enjoy peace and stability.

Ortega Criticizes UN Resolution, Departs

JN0212205090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has described the Security Council's recent resolution against Iraq as a black chapter in the history of the United Nations and international law.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] before leaving Baghdad today at the end of his five-day visit to Iraq, Ortega said that the resolution is not in harmony with the UN Charter and principles, which call for peaceful dialogue to solve problems among nations and for renouncing the use of force.

Ortega also called for finding peaceful solutions to the region's problems and the world's crises without threats and the use of force.

Ortega praised Iraq's peace policy and said: I have sensed the Iraqi officials' complete response to efforts to bring about peace. He was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Nicaraguan ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives Algerian FLN Officials

JN0312134090 Baghad INA in English 1125 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 3, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, received here last night member of the Politburo of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party Mohamed Khakha and member of the Central Committee of the Party Abdurrashed Bukizaz. [Algerian names as received]

Mr. Ramadan confirmed, during the meeting, that aggression planned by enemies of the Arabs for hampering Iraq's progress, would be foiled owing to the determination of the Iraqis and honest Arabs to defeat them.

The Algerian dignitaries confirmed the Algerian people's readiness to volunteer to stand in the same trench with the Iraqi Army in the national battle led by President Saddam Husayn for the defence of the Arab lands and dignity.

300 Prisoners of War Return From Iran 2 Dec

JN0212203490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A new group that included 300 of our dear prisoners arrived in the homeland today on board a special Iraqi plane that transported them from Tehran to Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Committee Tasked With Documenting Saddam's Life

JN0212205590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—During its session today, the National Assembly approved a law creating a committee to preserve the memory of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The creation of the said committee is designed to accurately document President Saddam Husayn's life history in order to preserve the memory of his leading and cultural role in building up the nation politically, economically, intellectually, and militarily; his excellency's role in unionist action in the Arab homeland; and his struggle to liberate the sacred lands and the occupied Arab territories.

Levi Says Nation Will Attack To Forestall Harm

TA0412193090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 90

["Excerpt" of Foreign Minister David Levi's address to European Parliament members at the Knesset on 4 December—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] This is an independent Israeli decision, and I am pleased to note that the United States has accepted our demand. During my conversations with the secretary of state, we reached an agreement that he will take action, as he is indeed doing. He also reported to me. [Words indistinct] the Arab leaders of the coalition which currently sides with the United States and the world against Saddam Husayn that the only way to change the situation will be for the Arab countries to terminate the state of war with Israel. This is the precondition. If this does not happen, even after the Gulf crisis ends, this region will not experience tranquillity, and the risk of war will hover above it. Each one will have its own reasons, but all of them will be against Israel, and Israel will have no other choice but to protect itself. To forestall an attempt to harm its existence, it will attack, but not in a low-profile manner; in the highest profile possible.

The U.S. President is currently making an effort to explain things to Saddam Husayn in a meeting by dispatching the secretary of state and by receiving the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington. I have received from the U.S. Administration a message saying that this approach does not in any way indicate a change in the goals the United States had set out for itself vis-a-vis Iraqi aggression. We will monitor this and observe to what extent this commitment is being honored.

I hope that this will indeed happen, because if the aggressor emerges, purportedly in the name of peace, with the upper hand, there will be no end to aggression.

Levi Message to U.S. Conveys 'New' Policy on Gulf

TA0512061690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 90 pp A1, 4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israel told the United States yesterday that it expects Washington to eliminate the Iraqi military threat, explaining that the U.S. commitment on the issue was one of the factors behind the Cabinet's consolidation of the low profile policy. It was thus implied that if the United States were to shrug off its commitment, Israel would no longer be obligated to maintain a low profile policy and would react to the Iraqi threat.

These statements were made during a meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and U.S. Ambassador William Brown. Levi summoned the ambassador in connection with the letter Brown had given him earlier this week, in which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker informed Levi of the decision to dispatch Baker to Baghdad and invite Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Washington.

Levi told Brown that Israel is closely following this development and reminded the ambassador that at the outset of the Gulf crisis, the United States had undertaken to achieve two major goals: an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the elimination of the Iraqi military threat. He pointed out that the U.S. position was one of Israel's considerations in formulating the low profile policy to which it adheres.

Earlier, speaking before a delegation from the European Parliament, Levi made it clear that Israel will react with the highest profile possible if there is any threat to its existence. These statements, in conjunction with the message he gave U.S. Ambassador Brown, serve to express a new Israeli policy regarding the Gulf crisis, following the U.S. invitation to Iraq to enter into negotiations. [passage omitted]

Israel 'Not Reconsidering' Low Profile Policy

TA0512101190 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Dec 90 P 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in Jerusalem yesterday evening stressed that "there are no real indications" that the U.S. Administration has given up either its official goals of getting Iraq out of Kuwait and reinstating the former Kuwaiti regime or its unofficial goals which include, in Israel's opinion, disarming Iraq of its weapons, as well as its nuclear installations. Israel, the sources asserted, continues to fully support the U.S. policy in the Gulf. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, however, recently returned from meetings in Washington and in closed forums he has expressed pessimistic evaluations regarding the U.S. readiness to confront Iraq and the possibility that Israel may have to face Iraq alone.

The sources stressed that at this stage, Israel is not reconsidering the low profile policy it has adopted since the outbreak of the crisis. Nevertheless, they added, the message delivered yesterday by Foreign Minister Levi is the "most significant" of the messages recently exchanged between the foreign ministers of the United States and Israel on the Gulf crisis. The message could arouse concern in Washington, due to the U.S. fear that Israel may be considering taking unilateral actions that may completely derail the administration's strategy. Prime Minister Shamir intends to warn the U.S. President that any solution to the Gulf crisis that will not leave Saddam Husayn defeated and disarmed will constitute a danger not just for Israel but for the Middle East in general, as well as the United States itself. This was made clear last night by political sources in Jerusalem. The sources said that perhaps the message Levi relayed yesterday will lead Bush to devote most of his meeting with Shamir next week to allaying Israel's fears.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 5 December in a pool report on pages 1 and 4 says that in his upcoming talk with President Bush, "Shamir intends to clarify that the U.S. assertion that the presence of its military forces in the Gulf constitutes a guarantee for Israel's security is insufficient. He will also underline the need to exploit the Gulf crisis to open venues of dialogue with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Emirates, and Syria. Shamir will also propose ideas for the rehabilitation of refugees in the Gaza Strip.

["Political sources in Jerusalem also expressed concern over the increasingly evident trend within the U.S. Administration to understate Israel's role and its contribution to the coalition against Iraq."]

'Sources' Say Europe Pulling U.S. To 'Compromise'

TA0512111890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Political and military sources in Jerusalem estimated this morning that there has been no change in the United States' aims and that it is still firm in its demand to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The sources believe that the European countries, however, are pulling the United States in the direction of compromise and concessions to Saddam Husayn.

Arens Discusses Defense Budget, Immigration

TA0412065490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has warned that whole systems might collapse if Israel fails to raise money from other sources, beyond what can be squeezed out of the Israeli taxpayer.

The defense minister was addressing a meeting of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Jerusalem last night. Most of his remarks concerned Israel's preparedness to meet the challenge of absorbing the wave of immigration and the defense budget. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports:

[Begin recording] [Litman] The defense minister's speech highlighted budget issues and the defense economy issue in accordance with the audience he was addressing, public accountants and treasury officials. The State of Israel today faces onerous—not to say unique—challenges, such as the absorption of immigrants and the defense budget. Consequently, we must raise money from sources other than the ordinary ones at our disposal, beyond what can be squeezed out of the Israeli taxpayer.

[Arens] If we fail to raise resources other than from the conventional sources that have been at our disposal in the last few years, I do not know if we will not be risking the collapse of whole systems, whether in the sphere of absorbing immigrants, the social sphere, or the defense area.

[Litman] The defense budget has been slashed every year for the past six years, and those cuts have been justified. We cannot go on doing that today, Arens emphasized.

[Arens] The defense budget cuts have led to a reduction in the size of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] compared to six years ago. Everything has its cost: the IDF has less weapons, its ammunition reserves are not what they used to be, and neither are its work orders from our military industries.

[An unattributed report on page 8 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 4 December adds that in a briefing of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Minister Arens noted that "the financial compromise forced upon him by the demands of the mass aliya would entail 'a substantial reduction in the activity of the IDF, despite recent security developments.'"

["The money which would now be saved by the cancellation of the submarine construction project would be spent in great part on high-tech development projects earmarked for the land and air forces, Arens revealed. The navy would get all the money it needed to fund the Sa'ar 5 missile boat series."]

[Litman] The defense minister also addressed himself to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. According to him, as far back as at the end of the Iran-Iraq war, Israel had foreseen that Saddam Husayn would look for new targets.

[Arens] In past years and until a few months ago, whenever I would tell the Americans that Saddam Husayn had one of the largest armies in the world, they would smirk and make us believe that, being an Israeli, I was definitely exaggerating in order to highlight Israel's problems, but actually that was not the case. Today the Americans know and admit that they are up against one of the largest armies in the world.

[Litman] Minister Arens was not prepared to prophesy how the Gulf crisis would end, but said he hoped one of the results of the U.S. intervention in the Middle East would be growing understanding on the part of the United States toward the unique problems faced by Israel. [end recording]

Details on Launch of New Upgraded Missile Boat

TA0312150990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Dec 90 p 20

[Text] A missile boat of the Saar 4.5 type, called the Nirit, was developed and built at the Israel Shipyards in Haifa and was launched recently. It is a Saar 4 boat enlarged to carry a helicopter or pilotless helicopter, as well as 32 Baraq sea-to-sea missile launchers, which will be tested for the first time on the vessel. The first upgraded vessel has been given the name Arrow, and will be handed over to the Navy early in the new year.

Senior Navy sources said that all the Saar 4 missile boats will be upgraded and enlarged to the Nirit class, and the

Navy is currently studying the possibility of carrying out the work at its own shipyards and not at the Israel Shipyards, which built the first vessel. It is also possible that the Israel Shipyards will receive some of the work as subcontractors.

By year's end, the Navy will receive three advanced Saar 5 missile boats, being built in the United States.

Sharon Explains Idea Behind 'Seven-Star' Plan

TA0412173890 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] We will now discuss the grand Construction and Housing Ministry plan entitled the seven-star plan, which in fact is a 12-star plan, as it involves 12 new settlements planned to provide housing for the hundreds of thousands of new immigrants—or more than 1 million, according to forecasts. The author of this plan and the one who also hopes to implement it is Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is with us in the studio today. Good evening.

[Sharon] Good evening.

[Shilon] I looked at the map you brought with you to the studio. It, in fact, turns the Green Line into something permanent.

[Sharon] Never. We announced that...

[Shilon, interrupting] Allow me to ask you to glance at the map, even as you are talking. We observe that Ari'el Sharon, none other, is perpetuating the Green Line.

[Sharon] Not at all. There is no change in our position regarding the strategic importance of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. As for USSR immigrants, we as the government undertook—so as not to affect aliyah from that country—not to send them to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District through our initiative. The map that you see here reflects the planned immigrant settlement map in accordance with the government's initiative. It definitely marks a change compared to the old Israeli map. We can see that a great endeavor is planned for united Jerusalem, where we have not and will not accept any limitation; the Galilee and the Negev will also look different, with 50 percent of the immigrants and the construction effort to be directed there. The remaining 50 percent will be in Jerusalem and the Coastal Plain.

[Shilon] Let me ask you something about united Jerusalem: Do you believe that immigrants will want to live in East Jerusalem? after all, Israelis do not want to live there now.

[Sharon] I think that both categories do wish to live there. There are problems in Jerusalem, and I regret to confess that these problems afflict not just Jerusalem, as the security problems have extended to all of Israel. I have had a number of opportunities, including on this program, to say what I am going to say and I will repeat it once again in response to your question: The current security situation in we which are embroiled is not an ordained, insurmountable predicament. Not only can it be overcome; it is possible and necessary to overcome it. For years I have repeatedly suggested and demanded that a different way be taken. I say again that even now, although it is a little late, it is possible to restore order and again imbue the Jews in Israel with a sense of security.

[Shilon] Seeing that we touched upon security matters unintentionally, let us dwell on the subject for a while and leave the housing plan for a minute. You say that it is possible to restore order. I ask you how, today—as people are being stabbed daily, and not only in Jerusalem or the territories but also in Tel Aviv, Bene Beraq, and Petah Tiqva—do you propose to end this?

[Sharon] Throughout these past years I kept presenting a plan innumerable times.

[Shilon] Yet the situation today is in no way reminiscent of the situation one or two years ago.

[Sharon] I presented the Inner Cabinet at the time with a plan. Of course everything is much more difficult today, but still we hold all the cards in our hands. I was glad to hear today that the defense minister and the justice minister are beginning to discuss several measures which I suggested three years ago.

[Shilon] Expulsions?

[Sharon] I congratulate them, particularly if these discussions yield results. I repeat again, though this is not the proper forum to go into details, that everything is still in our hands. What is unacceptable is to tolerate a situation in which Jewish life is made cheap. This is unacceptable, and it is in our control.

[Shilon] So let us return to the housing and construction issue. You are talking about a 12-settlement plan and a trans-Israel highway. One can only hope that the immigrants will not want to settle in Tel Aviv or the central part of the country but will be ready to move to those new places and live even in mobile homes. How will you persuade them?

[Sharon] I think there may be a misconception here. We are not talking about 12 settlements. The 12-settlement plan is one that stretches from the Gilboa' via Wadi 'Ara to the Modi'in area. There is an extension of this plan from the 'Adulam District all the way down to Beersheba. This, in addition to five new cities that will be set up: Modi'in will have 50,000 residents; we will begin work there on 1 March 1991. Bet Shemesh will have another 40,000 apartments and will turn into a central city; and Beersheba, which currently has 120,000 citizens, will be enlarged to 250,000.

[Shilon] Where will we find the resources for all this?

[Sharon] First of all, they should come from us. In general, we should expect no help from the Jewish nation, which I believe should raise its donations to 10 times more than the current level. Yet there is not a chance that this will come about if we do not do something ourselves first. This may be the reaction to the economic program. [sentence as heard] But in order to approach the nations of the world for help in the form of loans we must first make every effort ourselves. At any rate, the plan is feasible; anyone traveling in the Negev and the Galilee today can observe the Negev reawakening and major housing starts in the Galilee. I think this will continue in full force.

[Shilon] I read today that the director general of your ministry, who is currently convalescing after a heart attack—possibly because of the tremendous pressure in your ministry—said in an interview that the entire issue is heading down a collision path. He also said the Cabinet in effect endorsed the perpetuation, or revival, of the tent camps [for new immigrants]. Do you agree?

[Sharon] Definitely not. I have not yet had a chance to read the papers, something I have been unable to do for some time due to work pressure. We are definitely not on a collision course. I believe we are on a course of hope. Furthermore, I think he was misinterpreted. I believe we are on a path of great hope with an incredible opportunity for an Israel with 6 or 7 million Jews. This will be an Israel totally different from one with 4 million Jews, and there is room here for everyone—Jew and Arab—without anyone bothering the other, provided, of course, that the other party wishes to live in peace with us. There is room for all, and I believe that despite the difficulties—and they will be enormous—we will not be going back to the tent camps of those times. Rather, we are embarking on a new settlement map entailing incredible opportunities for the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

[Shilon] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Meridor Says Deportations Necessary 'Weapon'

TA0412202290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor says that all force should be employed to quell the violence and penalize perpetrators of violent acts. The solution to the conflict should be reached by political means, however. Replying to motions to the Knesset's agenda, the justice minister said there is no magic wand to wave away the problems of terrorism and there is no alternative but to employ harsh measures, such as blowing up homes and holding people under administrative detention. Furthermore, he added, no one takes pleasure in driving people from their land. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir discussed the possibility that instigators might be deported with Justice Minister Dan Meridor this evening:

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] The Defense Ministry and the Justice Ministry are currently in the midst of feverish discussions about expulsions.

[Meridor] I do not wish to address any operational issue, including deportations. The matter should be left as it is.

[Ahime'ir] Is the legal system looking into ways to expedite processes because of the need to deport individuals?

[Meridor] I do not think such a problem exists. The courts in Israel, as well as the High Court of Justice, have proved on a number of earlier occasions that when urgent, speedy action is required—as in the al-Burayj case [reference to the murder of reservist Amnon Pomerantz in September]—the courts can debate the issue and conclude cases in 24 hours. The problem does not lie in the legal system; the problem should be in making decisions on various issues by the committee. [sentence as heard] The legal system is part of the overall national system, and it will do its share, so that the moment any action is called for—whether in relation to criminal law, investigations, administrative detentions, or any other action—the system will do what it has to do in the appropriate time.

[Ahime'ir] Meaning that from your standpoint, Mr. Minister, there is no reason why individuals should not be expelled, apart from delays stemming from legal considerations?

[Meridor] Not only is there no reason why there should be no expulsions, but I think we must admit that there is no alternative but to employ deportations as another weapon against instigators and people who help create a situation in the area in which the lives of people—Arabs and Jews—are endangered. The developments of the past few weeks warrant new thinking and vigorous action to make it extremely hard for those who try to create difficult circumstances for us. We are stronger, and we will be able to endure longer. If we prove that we can persevere and prevail, we will win. [end recording]

'Feverish' Discussions on Expanding Deportations

TA0412062490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] In the last few days the defense and justice officials have been holding feverish discussions about the possibility of expanding the deportation of people involved in the latest wave of stabbings and violence.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, and State Attorney Dorit Beinish have been dealing with the matter at the defense minister's request. The intention is not to amend the law or standing regulations but to decide on new criteria which would allow for the deportation of more people.

[Writing on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 4 December, Eytan Rabin and Re'uven Shapira quote

military sources as saying that "the defense establishment is under heavy pressure by elements in the right-wing parties who demand that deportations be used as a punitive measure."

[Noting the defense minister's aversion to resorting to deportations because of the protracted and cumbersome process involved, "a senior military source last night said that if it became possible to deport terrorists within one to two weeks it would make sense to resort to deportations as a punishment but pointed out that if the current situation remained unchanged 'there would be no sense in getting started with a deportations affair.'"]

EC Delegation Arrives for Annual Meeting

TA0312084290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] A delegation of the European Parliament arrived last night for its annual dialog with representatives of the Knesset.

An Italian parliamentarian, Renzo Imbeni, heads the 13-person delegation from seven countries. Re'uven Rivlin (Likud) heads the Knesset team.

The discussions will cover "Europe 1992" as well as political and economic fields.

This morning the delegates will visit Yad Vashem [Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem] and then make a trip to Massada.

Discusses Gulf Developments With Levi

TA0412121890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Text] Israel's low profile policy in the Gulf crisis, said Foreign Minister David Levi, is not the result of any kind of coercion but of three targets the government set itself: not to serve as an excuse, in Levi's words, for an Iraqi attack; not to appear as an element agitating for war in the region; and not to risk the lives of U.S. and European troops. Levi made these remarks to representatives of the European Parliament, currently in Israel to attend discussions at the Knesset.

Levi criticized the Parliament and said that some of the enlightened European countries have supplied Saddam with the know-how and means to develop an atomic bomb and chemical materials. Levi added that the Gulf crisis must not be allowed to end in surrender or in a peace arrangement by which the Iraqi tyrant will achieve his goals.

[Begin Levi recording] If anyone thinks that by achieving some sort of agreement that will leave Saddam Husayn in power with his arsenal intact, thus making him out to be the winner in the eyes of the peoples of the region, the danger will then be tenfold. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

The foreign minister said that Israel is the European countries' ally in the Middle East and that we are close to the positions and viewpoints of the Europeans. He nevertheless accused the Parliament of adopting one-sided decisions against Israel and said he is convinced that if Saddam had invaded Israel and not Kuwait, the world would not have stood by us. Levi stressed that Israel is interested in achieving peace in the region, but only through negotiations without any preconditions.

The head of the European delegation, Mr. Embeni, the mayor of Bologna, said that he can understand the foreign minister's position, but rejected Levi's assertion regarding the world's behavior if Iraq had invaded Israel. He said that there has never been bias in the decisions concerning Israel, as the countries of Europe consider Israel to be almost their only friend in the Middle East.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 4 December adds that Foreign Minister Levi said that "Israel's low-profile policy will change if and when Saddam Husayn threatens the very existence of the State of Israel." Levi said: "Israel will then have no choice but to defend itself, and it will strike back against any attempt to harm its very existence, and not with a low profile but with the highest profile possible."]

Meets With Shamir

TA0412154290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has said again that Israel should believe Saddam Husayn's threats and be prepared should he try to make good on them. In a meeting with the EC delegation, Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel does not want bloodshed in the region, but Saddam Husayn repeats time and again that we will be his missiles' first target. Shamir believes that if the international community fails to do something to save Kuwait, that country will disappear, and a similar fate may befall other countries as well. The prime minister's remarks were reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Minister Nisim Leaves for GATT Meeting

TA0312135890 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 3 Dec 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Moshe Nisim, deputy prime minister and industry and trade minister, left yesterday for Brussels where he will attend a convention of GATT ministers. Nisim will participate in a meeting of the trade and industry ministers of the GATT member countries. The approximately 100 countries which belong to the organization control most of the world's trade. [passage omitted]

Yesterday it was learned from Minister Nisim's office that while in Brussels, he will meet with his counterparts from various countries. In addition, he will meet with representatives of major companies, investors, and businessmen whom he will try to interest in investing in Israel. Minister Nisim will also hold meetings with Antwerp stock exchange businessmen.

Jewish Agency Sends Food to USSR

TA0412205290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Two aircraft loaded with powdered milk and agricultural produce took off for the Soviet Union this evening. They were sent by the Jewish Agency. Right now an aircraft transporting tomatoes and melons is taking off, and on Thursday the Jewish Agency will send 15 metric tons of powdered milk to Moscow.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz told our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli that this is a humanitarian gesture by the Jewish Agency toward the Soviet authorities and people, which are helping Israel by letting immigrants from the Soviet Union depart.

2 Dec Incidents in Territories Reported

TA0312121590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 8

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] A West Bank villager died after inhaling tear gas yesterday and another man was shot dead by masked men in incidents in Janin yesterday.

Janin and its refugee camp were placed under curfew.

Ahmad Hamdan, 60, from 'Arabah, died when troops fired tear gas into an angry crowd protesting against the rumored death of a Black Panther, Najib Hawilah. Hawilah was shot and seriously wounded but not killed in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] ambush Friday. Hamdan, who was buying vegetables in the market suffered from high blood pressure, local sources said, and collapsed after inhaling gas. Military sources confirmed the death.

Sa'id 'Abdal Jabir, an alleged informer, was yesterday found dead, from a bullet in the head, after masked men who claimed to be Black Panthers kidnapped him several days ago, local sources said.

The house of a Janin policeman, Jalal Kanji, 45, was attacked and damaged yesterday, local and military sources said.

In Nabulus a youth was shot in the hand by Israeli security men, local sources said.

In contrast with widespread violence within the Green Line last month, casualties in the territories dropped sharply. Two Palestinians were killed by gunfire by security personnel compared with 31 deaths in October, Betzelem, the human rights group, said.

In Bayt Sahur yesterday, masked youths put up roadblocks and threw stones at troops who fired rubber bullets in response as 40 Israelis and Palestinians wound up a peace dialogue in a nearby building. MK [Knesset Member] Dedi Zucker told Palestinians who had invited him to speak that their support for Iraq complicated the peace process. He called on Palestinians to condemn the Ramat Gan bus attack without reservations. One man who said he had begun attending peace dialogues two years ago pulled out a green card, barring him from Israel, which he said had just been issued to him.

Ghassan 'Anduni, a physics lecturer at Bi'r Zayt University, condemned the bus attack, but blamed it on the deadlock in the peace process. "Don't lose your rights by taking revenge," he told Palestinians.

Bi'r Zayt University yesterday condemned the Israeli decision last Thursday not to open any of the four West Bank and Gaza colleges that were closed in January 1988. The university spokesman said that the decision to renew the last three-month closure order "flies in the face of official explanations about the gradual reopening of Palestinian universities."

Arabs' Cars Burned; 12 Sentenced for Beach Attack

TA0312141490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Four parked cars belonging to local Arabs were set on fire in East Jerusalem's Wadi al-Jawz neighborhood at dawn. Two of the cars were gutted, while two others were damaged.

The police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse rioting and stone-hurling students in the Wadi al-Jawz neighborhood. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that one of the students was injured. The policemen entered the school and found inflammatory slogans scribbled on the walls. The school principal was detained for questioning.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 3 December reports that "12 members of a terrorist squad which landed on the Ga'ash and Nitzanim beaches on Shabuoth were sentenced to 30 years in prison by the Lod Military Court. While the prosecution demanded a life sentence, the court took into account the defendants' quiet surrender and decided on a more lenient sentence."]

Arab Building Barred on 68 Percent of West Bank

TA0312144090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 90 p A3

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hundreds of Arab residents in the West Bank have lost the titles to their lands over the years because they failed to produce official ownership documents and their lands were declared state property. The planning and construction procedures in Arab townships in the territories are totally different from those in

Jewish settlements. Only one out of 400 West Bank villages has contour plans, while all the Israeli settlements have deposited approved contour plans, which allow accelerated construction, with the authorities.

The various clauses of restrictions on the use of land include areas abutting settlements and planned roads, fire range areas and closed areas, nature preservations, state-owned land dating back to the Jordanian rule, lands declared as state-owned under the Israeli rule (including absentees' property), and areas appropriated for public and military needs. Part of the lands appropriated for public and military needs, as well as state-owned lands, were over the years used for the establishment of Jewish settlements and for the expansion of existing Jewish townships. According to Betzelem data, there is a prohibition on Palestinian building on 3.73 million dunams, which is 68 percent of the West Bank's total territory of 5.5 million dunams.

[Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 3 December, Mikhal Sela' reports: "Nearly 10,000 dunams of land in the villages of Husan, Wadi Fukin, and Nahallin have been appropriated or are in the process of being appropriated for the Hadar Betar settlement and its access roads. This information was imparted yesterday by Husan residents to reporters in Jerusalem.

["At first, about 2,500 dunams were appropriated for the settlement; later about 3,000 more were appropriated in order to enable an access road to be paved; this week, the settlement's planning committee is scheduled to discuss the appropriation of 4,000 more dunams for an expansion of the settlement.

["Attorney Musa 'Alqam, the villagers legal representative, said yesterday that all the residents' appeals against appropriation are rejected with the argument that the appropriation is done for the villages benefit.

[" 'Alqam said that the appropriation is done in contravention of Jordanian law and without the participation of the land owners' representatives in the planning committees. The Jordanian law says that roads cannot be built as long as there is no comprehensive contour plan for the region; the Arab villages have no such plans.

["Another instance of land appropriation and planned house demolition is found in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The development plans of the location include a wide road running along the al-Duhayshah camp; it will be based partly on the existing roadside and broadened on both sides. For the latter, 195 houses are apparently to be demolished, said attorney 'Alqam. 'Is this for the residents' benefit?'"]

Arab Youth Dies of Wounds; Seven Hurt in Gaza

TA0412132790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 90 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources have reported that Amin Mar'adi, from Khirbat Ra's al-Tirah near Qalqilyah, was stoned yesterday by Jews while he was driving in the vicinity of Rosh Ha'ayin. His car's windshield shattered and his hand was injured.

In the Gaza Strip al-Burayj refugee camp, a youth who was about to hurl a brick at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] jeep was shot and severely wounded. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources said that seven locals were wounded in yesterday's disturbances in the Gaza Strip. According to them, most of the injuries occurred in the al-Burayj and Rafah refugee camps, in which residents clashed with the IDF. The sources also reported clashes in the city of Gaza and the townships of Khan Yunus and Rafah. [passage omitted]

Several Gaza Strip locations were under curfew yesterday: the Shuwaykah neighborhood in Tulkarm; Janin and the neighboring Dayr Sharaf refugee camp; 'Askar; and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'. [passage omitted]

The Gaza Military Court, headed by Major Ya'ir Rabinowitz, yesterday sentenced Salam Sihami al-Khatib, 22, from the Rimal neighborhood in Gaza, to 12 years—seven in prison and five suspended. He had been convicted of belonging to a popular committee of the Unified National Command of the Uprising since April 1988, into which he recruited four new members. Al-Khatib had taken part in assaults against six Gaza Strip residents. [passage omitted]

[A report on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 4 December adds that "An explosive charge hidden inside a loaf of bread was found in Arie'l on Sunday and safely defused."

[The report further states that "17-year-old Anwar Muhammad Ahmad Hasan was killed yesterday in the Hebron District village of Bayt Fajjar. He was shot in the leg after throwing stones at IDF troops and later died in the Bethlehem hospital after having lost a great deal of blood."]

Security Worried About Palestinian 'Radicalization'

TA0512094290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Security sources have expressed concern about a process of Palestinian radicalization which started recently. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that various security elements have expressed concern that organizations such as Fatah, which up to now have avoided calling for the use of firearms, are now urging that such measures also be used:

All the security elements—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the police, the Shin Bet, and the Civil Administration—are prepared for 6 December, the 30th day following the assassination of Me'ir Kahana, as well as 9 December, the third anniversary of the outbreak of the intifadah. Due to concern about an expected escalation

within the Green Line and in the territories, the IDF will beef up its troops and will adopt preventive measures.

The territories forum met yesterday in the chief of staff's bureau with the participation of various security elements, the generals of the various commands, and Civil Administration heads. It discussed the various aspects and repercussions of the leaflet disseminated by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The security branches expressed concern that organizations such as Fatah, which up to now have avoided calling for the use of firearms, are now encouraging such activity. Nevertheless, they called for moderation in preventing the entry of Arabs from the territories, because their economic plight could lead to an escalation.

Meanwhile, at the request of the defense minister, the discussions being held by the military judge advocate's office and the state prosecutor on deportations continue.

70 Percent of Draftees Volunteer for Territories

TA0512114090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Approximately 70 percent of all new recruits who were drafted in November and sent to the "territories brigades" had requested to serve in these units as their first or second preference. This proves that youth who have the necessary qualifications to serve in combat units are prepared to spend most of their military service in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

Sources in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] expressed amazement at this number. Senior Army sources reported that 70 percent of the soldiers recruited during last August's draft were also placed in these units, at their own request.

These units, which are armored infantry units and are better known as the "territories brigades," have over the past year developed an esprit de corps, and many youths flock to their information stands at IDF recruitment centers. The IDF had had reservations about setting up information stands for these units but eventually decided to try to recruit teenagers to join these units.

It was reported that the number of dropouts from these companies after the basic training course is minuscule and much lower than dropout rates in other units.

IDF sources added that until now, no special problems regarding morale or behavior have been reported, despite the deep concern that accompanied the formation of the "territories brigades."

Iraq Pressures Nation To Admit Abu-Nidal Group

TA0412124490 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources have revealed that the Iraqi president has applied immense pressure on the Jordanian monarch to permit the presence of members of Abu-Nidal's group in Amman. These sources said that King Husayn gave in to the Iraqi pressure, despite his awareness concerning the perils Jordan will be facing as a result of the presence of Abu-Nidal's men. The sources pointed out that recently Iraq increased its anti-Jordan activity, which climaxed in the attempted assassination of Roger Harrison, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, by Abu-Nidal's group.

Baker's Remarks, U.S. Aim in Gulf Examined

JN0512111590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Conspiracy Whose Chapters Have Been Disclosed"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said the only reward Washington can offer Iraq is not to attack it. If the U.S. Administration's response to peace calls and initiatives have returned matters to the pre-2 August situation with regard to the hostile U.S. intentions and plans, then Baker's statement confirms Washington's readiness to return to that situation.

The Gulf crisis was not due to Iraq's entry into Kuwait, and the the U.S. and allied invasion forces did not come to "liberate Kuwait" or defend Saudi Arabia. All these were mere excuses used by Washington to hide its real intentions and plans. This is because the U.S.-British-Zionist campaign began at the end of the Iraq-Iran war, and the threat to attack Iraq, destroy its military power, and prevent it from achieving scientific progress has been made openly and publicized in imperialist circles in order to intimidate our Gulf brothers. So, the Gulf crisis was born amid these intentions and plans and was utilized by the United States, Britain, and their allies to achieve the real U.S.-British-Zionist aim, which is to crush Iraq, the country which embodies pan-Arab awakening. This evil coalition had imagined that it would be able to isolate Iraq from its nation through the resolutions passed by the Arab League Council at the emergency summit in Cairo. It also imagined that it would be able to isolate Iraq from its world community by the resolutions which the United States has bought through bribery, intimidation, and blackmail at the UN Security Council store.

By accepting political dialogue with Baghdad, Bush has thrown overboard the international legitimacy embodied in the first UN resolution, Resolution 660, which called for Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue. Washington has also thrown overboard Arab legitimacy, which calls for resolving inter-Arab differences within the one Arab house. The United States has returned the crisis to a point beyond its roots when Baker stated that the United States will not attack Iraq if it withdraws from Kuwait. More than that, Washington has not allowed French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative and Soviet moves to gain the necessary support which would have kept the Gulf crisis within its natural context between Iraq and Kuwait. After all this, Bush has announced his readiness for dialogue and Baker has confirmed in his statement that the substance of all that has happened goes back to the pre-2 August period; in other words to a single issue; namely, a U.S.-British-Zionist decision to destroy Iraq with all that it represents and the aspirations it seeks to achieve for all Arabs.

What we hope is that the world community will understand the dimensions of the U.S. conspiracy, and that the Arabs now standing in the U.S. trench will realize what has been realized all along by the righteous Arabs, who have condemned the U.S. invasion of our homeland and maintained a clear and frank stand that they are with their Iraqi and Kuwaiti brothers, because they are with their nation and with the confrontation against all hostile plans seeking to destroy us from within and without and to restore hegemony over the homeland and the nation, after all our struggles and sacrifices to get rid of imperialism with its various forms and objectives.

'Cautious Optimism' Over U.S.-Iraq Dialogue

JN0512104890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Dialogue With Iraq Remains the Solution Both on the Arab and International Levels"]

[Text] The swift developments to find a peaceful solution to the so-called Gulf crisis before the 15 January deadline set by the last UN Security Council for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait call for very cautious optimism.

It is no secret that the recent changes in the position of the side led by Washington represented by acceptance of dialogue with Iraq have come as a surprise to many political observers, coming only a few hours after the last UN Security Council resolution, which Iraq has rejected considering it an unltimatum.

The firm Iraqi stand, backed by the broad Arab popular masses, has made the Americans accept dialogue in principle, although they still insist that what Baker will do in Baghdad is inform Baghdad of the U.S. position and the Security Council resolution.

The persistent Jordanian moves led by His Majesty King Husayn and the efforts exerted by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to find a peaceful solution to the problem, especially after the foreign invasion forces have poured into the region under various pretexts, at first looked like an attempt to plough the sea. This Jordanian peaceful trend was also severely punished by putting enormous economic pressure on Jordan.

However, Jordan's persistence to find a peaceful solution, the firm Iraqi stand, and the clear popular support expressed in most Arab countries, have all forced the Americans and their allies in the end to retreat from their position and accept dialogue.

So, if George Bush does not admit this, and still insists that Baker will not hold negotiations in Baghdad, then his attitude will only serve the war-mongers and those beating war drums in the region and the world.

Perhaps, the U.S. president would return to his senses and realize the disaster to which he is leading his country, the region, and the world if he sticks to his unrealistic demands. Dialogue with Iraq must be without preconditions and must be conducted on the main basis of mutual respect and seeking a comprehensive solution to all the problems of the region, including the Palestine question.

If Iraq's demand for the presence of Palestinian representatives in any talks between Baker and Iraqi officials, or between Tariq 'Aziz and the U.S. Administration has led to a U.S. demand that the talks remain bilateral without the attendance of the parties in the coalition led by the United States, this U.S. position did not prevent the European Community from supporting bilateral talks between the Italian foreign minister and Iraqi officials.

Perhaps, the French defense minister's statements in which he called for a "subtle linkage" between Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the resolution of the Middle East problems could also be viewed within the same perspective.

Thus, we say that opening the door of dialogue between Iraq on the one hand and the United States and the European Community on the other on the Gulf events returns matters to their natural course. It also makes it incumbent on Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states to also open the door of dialogue with Iraq in order to achieve a comprehensive peaceful solution.

Perhaps, all this reminds us all of those delicate moments the world witnessed at the beginning of the crisis when the foreign invasion forces began pouring into the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula; moments when it was very difficult for anyone to see any glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

Nevertheless, the continuation of efforts and the persistence to reach the sublime objectives have paved the way for the current changes which call for optimism.

Nicaragua's Ortega Views Contacts With U.S.

JN0512065690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega disclosed Tuesday that he had prior contacts with the American administration before embarking on his ongoing mission to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Ortega, who visited Baghdad twice last month, said that he discussed his mission with an American envoy in Managua before coming to the region three weeks ago.

He did not disclose the name of the American envoy but the Jordan Times has learned that the American official is a former senior diplomat who was stationed in the Middle East until recently.

Addressing hundreds of Jordanian students who packed the main auditiorium of the Economics Department at the University of Jordan, Ortega said that the Sandinista Front of Nicaragua was trying to formulate a peace initiative to solve the Gulf crisis.

He did not disclose the elements of the initiative but implied that it was a collective effort exerted by Third World leaders and other international personalities who are seeking peace in the region.

Following his first visit to Baghdad, Ortega conferred with His Majesty King Husayn, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In his second recent visit to Baghdad, Ortega held a five-hour meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Ortega, who is accompanied by the former Nicaraguan foreign minister, father Miguel Discotes, is expected to leave for Germany on Wednesday to confer with former German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The Nicaraguan leader implied that the Gulf initiative will essentially be a compromise compatible with the United Nations Charter.

"We are not in the process of counting votes of who is in favour of Iraq and who is in favour of the United States," He said. "Our efforts aim at formulating an initiative that enhances international law and the United Nations Charter and is in favour of peace," he told the students.

Ortega said he was encouraged by the positive response by the Iraqis and the other parties to the ideas that have been put forward as part of the projected peace initiative.

Although Ortega, who was opposed by consecutive American administrations during his ten years in power before stepping down in February 1990, does not have clout in Washington political analysts believe that his role might be instrumental in influencing the course of events in the Gulf.

Ortega appears to be working on two levels: On the one hand he is practically rallying support of the Third World, basically in Latin America, behind Iraq in its confontation with the West.

On the other hand, he is seeking a settlement which will lay a basis for a commitment from all sides involved to respect international law and conventions. In Ortega's view, such a settlement will be in favour of the Third World preventing hostile acts by the more powerful industrialised countries from encroaching upon the sovereignty and the rights of the developing countries.

"We have many problems in Nicaragua and in Latin America, but we believe that the solution of our problems to a great extent depends on how things develop in this region," he said.

Ortega has said that the Gulf crisis is a manifestation of the North-South conflict and that a peaceful solution based on international law will be a victory to the South.

Ortega was given a standing ovation by enthusiastic students who crowded the auditorium and spilled over to the corridor. His remarks about the need for the Third World (the South) to unite to face a united North in order to assert the developing countries' rights were met with loud applause.

Students followed him outside the auditorium pressing him with questions and asking for his autograph. In their questions the students projected concern about the future of the Third World in the light of the dominance of the United States as the leading superpower.

At one stage when Ortega described the Soviet Union's position in the Gulf as "sad... for the Soviet Union is no longer the influential superpower it was," students responded with loud applause in agreement.

King Returns From Iraq After Meeting Saddam

JN0412212890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this evening after a working visit to Baghdad, during which he met with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. The two Arab leaders exchanged views on the recent developments on the Gulf crisis and the two sisterly countries' concern for reaching a political solution to this crisis through earnest and constructive dialogue.

His Majesty King Husayn; His Excellency President Saddam Husayn; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine; and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president held a closed meeting. This meeting was preceded by an expanded one attended by Jordanian, Iraqi, Palestinian, and Yemeni officials. During the meeting, the conferees held consultations on the Gulf crisis and confirmed the importance of intensifying Arab and international efforts to achieve a political settlement of the crisis.

His majesty was accompanied during the visit by His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, His Highness Talal Bin-Muhammad, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

His majesty was received and seen off by His Excellency President Saddam Husyan, the members of the Revolution Command Council, and the ministers.

Analysis Views King's Role

JN0512062790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid Tuesday held talks in Baghdad on the Gulf crisis and the next moves in efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully.

The four leaders held a round of closed talks preceded by a meeting attended by senior aides, Jordan Television said. No details were immediately avialable.

The mini-summit was expected to have focused on U.S. President George Bush's initiative to open direct talks with Iraq on the Gulf crisis. The initiative involves an invitation to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to the White House and an offer to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad.

Iraq has accepted the proposal in principle, but has not responded on the specific timing of the contact, according to American officials.

The Bush initiative followed the endorsement by the U.N. Security Council of a resolution endorsing the use of force to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

King Husayn, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir, returned home late Tuesday.

Well-informed sources expected the mini-summit to coordinate unified negotiating position ahead of the expected 'Aziz visit to the U.S.

Yemen's al-Bid arrived here Monday and held talks with the King before flying with him to Baghdad Tuesday. The King's talks with the Yemeni leader also dealt with the American decision to lift its embargo on dialogue with Iraq, according to senior officials.

Political analysts believe that the American move paves the way for Jordan to play an important role in preparing the ground for the American-Iraqi encounter and laying the basis for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis.

They pointed out that despite inter-Arab differences—including undeclared punitive measures against Jordan—Amman has been trying to deescalate tension with Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti ruling family.

In a move apparently aimed at mending fences with Saudi Arabia, Amman has decided to send back to Riyadh Jordan's Ambassador Nasir al-Batayineh three months after recalling him due to differences over the Gulf crisis.

Analysts believe that Jordan is preparing itself to play a mediating role by retaining its good offices with all parties involved in the conflict.

Jordan, which vehemently opposes the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf, hopes that the Iraq-U.S. dialogue will contribute to decreasing chances of a Western military intervention in the region.

Despite Jordan's refusal to join the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq, the Kingdom supports an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as part of a negotiated settlement which guarantees Iraqi economic and security interests.

Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Yemen have always indicated they were not ready to press the Iraqis for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, even though none of them has officially condoned the Iraqi annexation of the emirate.

In his acceptance of the American offer to talk, President Husayn insisted that all issues, especially the Palestinian problem should be discussed.

For both Jordan and the PLO a settlement of the Gulf crisis that leaves out the Arab-Israeli conflict will be insufficient. According to analysts, the Gulf crisis has in some ways boosted long-standing Jordanian and Palestinian demands for an immediate implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions, including 242 and 338 concerning the Palestinian problem.

The Iraqi president has implied that he was ready to withdraw from Kuwait in exchange for an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories.

Neither Jordanian nor Palestinian officials have any illusion about a possible mechancial linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict but argue that a mechanism can be fcund to ensure the solution of the Palestinian problem.

The U.S. has so far refused any kind of linkage. Yet there are indications of a growing consensus—within the international community—over the urgency to address the Palestinian issue.

Ambassador to Saudi Arabia To Return 'Soon'

JN0512070890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned from well-informed sources that Dr. Nasir al-Batayinah, Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, will soon return to his post.

The sources affairmed that Dr. al-Batayinah has been issued an entry visa from the Saudi Embassy in Amman.

Dr. al-Batayinah returned to Amman from Riyadh about three months ago.

Kuwaiti Delegation Continues Visit to Amman

Spokesman Interviewed

JN0412083390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A spokesman for a visiting popular Kuwaiti delegation Monday blamed Iraq for the Western intervention in the Gulf, saying that the U.S. had found "the proper excuse" for their presence in the region.

Ahmad al-Rab'i, a former Kuwaiti parliamentarian, held Iraq and its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 responsible for the foreign presence in the region.

"The important question here is 'who is responsible for the foreign presence?' The U.S. was looking for an excuse for this presence and found the proper one with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait to intervene in this manner," al-Rab'i said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, he stressed that he rejected the foreign intervention "in the Gulf crisis in general."

"We cannot be against foreign presence and at the same time with the Iraqi occupation," he said. "The two issues must be linked clearly."

Al-Rab'i did not elaborate, but stressed that the U.S. had strategic interests in the Gulf, which holds over 60 per cent of all known oil reserves in the world.

The seven-member Kuwaiti delegation—one of 14 similar teams touring the world—arrived in Amman Saturday.

The delegation has already visited Syria and Lebanon and will visit Cairo, Sanaa and Khartoum.

The delegation was received by His Majesty King Husayn Monday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister met with the team Sunday.

Al-Rab'i, a member of the Kuwaiti opposition who was arrested and imprisoned by the emiri government several times, rejected an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, maintaining that the Arab countries who have been advocating this idea have not been able to define its meaning.

"Jordan still hopes for an Arab solution," said al-Rab'i. "We hope so too, but it is so complicated because no one can define an Arab solution."

He refused to accept any linkage between solution of the Kuwaiti problem with the Palestinian issue. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait "only complicated and made more difficult a solution to the Palestinian people," he said.

Al-Rab'i maintained that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had made Israel happier because "one big Arab country had occupied another smaller Arab country" and because the world attention has shifted from the intifada to the Gulf crisis.

"With the world's preoccupation with the Gulf, Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel has increased and the news of the intifada has been overshadowed by the Gulf problem," al-Rab'i said. Israel would never withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip because there was now a dispersed Kuwaiti people, he said.

Al-Rab'i contended that Palestinians were misled in thinking that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was a step towards the liberation of Palestine, and "that there was a possibility of simultaneous withdrawal and other dreams that I think are unrealistic." He said that the Palestinian reaction was understandable because of "their displacement, suffering and frustration in the last 40 years."

Al-Rab'i professor at Kuwait University, maintained that an Iraqi withdrawal from the oil-rich state and Baghdad's compliance with Security Council resolutions would strengthen the position of the Arab World.

"We'll be able to tell the world that we respected international legitimacy; then international legitimacy must be respected by everyone everywhere, including those related to the Palestinian question," he said.

For al-Rab'i, the only solution to the Gulf problem is that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait as a first step, especially after the statements of U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James baker, which he said guaranteed Iraq's safety from an attack if it did pull out.

"I don't think the world community would allow an attack on Iraq if it withdraws," he said, adding that once withdrawal takes place, problems could be discussed and negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait would start.

al-Rab'i, who believes that the lack of democracy in both Iraq and Kuwait led to the invasion, said that he would like to see a new democratic Kuwaiti state "run by democratic insituations, not individuals."

He stressed that a new Kuwait should play a positive role in the Arab world, particularly towards the Palestinian problem. "All miserable Arab countries, of which Kuwait is one, abused the rights of Palestinians," he said.

He stressed that people should not be selective concerning countries that have abused rights of Palestinians.

The Kuwaiti visitors, who expected to meet with the speaker of the Lower House and the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament, were boycotted by the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic alliance (JANDA) and the professional union because the delegation endorsed Western intervention in the Gulf. Al-Rab'i expressed regret over the boycott, saying that dialogue might have brought their points of view closer together.

Meets Prince Hasan

JN0412194390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with the Kuwaiti popular delegation, currently touring several Arab capitals, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His highness reviewed Jordan's efforts prior to the Gulf crisis, and the continuation of these efforts after the outbreak of the crisis, to reach a settlement within the Arab fold and prevent an escalation that would complicate the crisis and open the door to foreign intervention.

The Kuwaiti popular delegation praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, and expressed its conviction that Jordan now has an important role in finding formulas that will guarantee an honorable solution to spare the region a certain catastrophe should war break out.

Our correspondent for political affairs Hani al-Badri interviewed Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, member of the visiting Kuwaiti popular delegation:

[Begin recording] [Al-Badri] You have met with a number of Jordanian officials and figures in general. What is your impression about the Jordanian position on the crisis?

[Al-Rab'i] Thank you. The truth is that we, as a popular delegation, have come here because we feel that there is now a large problem in the Arab world; namely, that the current and regrettable division has transferred from the official to the popular level. We have a major responsibility, which is to try to unify the Arab popular position. This is a passing crisis that will end in one way or another, but the Arab people will remain. We have the right and obligation to call for a healthy dialogue to restore the Arab peoples' unity. As for our visit, we have met with His Majesty King Husayn, and we listened to an explanation that lasted many hours on what Jordan's position is, its implications, and the Jordanian role. We, for our part, also explained the nature of our position as a Kuwaiti people on this crisis. I think that there is a great deal of understanding, and we hope that this visit will have a great effect. We also met with his royal highness the crown prince. We talked with open minds as members of the Arab family above all. We also talked with our brothers in the Senate, the House of Representatives, and in general sessions in more than one place. We hope that these meetings continue between us all.

[Al-Badri] Dr. al-Rabi, do you have a definite idea about the resolution of the crisis within the Arab fold, sparing us foreign intervention and the destructiveness of war?

[Al-Rab'i] The truth is that I might not be accurate if I told you that we have a clear idea about an Arab solution. Each one of us talks about an Arab solution and everyone is telling his own story. For us, at least, the aspects of this solution should include an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and also the protection of Iraq. We do not want our children's pleasure in returning to their homes to be at the expense of the Iraqi children's agony,

because ultimately we belong to one nation. We hope that this issue will be resolved through peaceful and brotherly means and through brotherly dialogue away from war and suffering. In fact, we do not need any more suffering in this region.

[Al-Badri] What is your view of the future of the independence of Arab oil and the Arab oil decision?

[Al-Rab'i] The truth is that we need a unified decision toward Arab oil, Arab weapons, Arab wealth, and Arab information. In fact, we have a profound problem in the Arab world. The issue is not a division between oil-producing and non-oil-producing countries. There is an imbalance in every Arab state separately, and in inter-Arab and inter-popular relations. We believe that without an Arab development program...[rephrases] not just aid from this party to another. We need an Arab development plan in which each party is responsible for something; the party that has the money must give the one who doesn't, the party that has the water must give some to another, and the party that has a surplus labor force must give to the one who doesn't; but this must be carried out within clear and specific development plans for a specific historical stage.

[Al-Badri] Thank you. May God keep you in good health.
[Al-Rab'i] We were honored to visit Jordan. Thank you.
[end recording]

Delegation's Role Reviewed

JN0512064890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Alternative to Diplomacy"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti popular delegations touring various Arab capitals can perform an important role in bridging the gap between the two Arab camps on the Kuwaiti conflict. With official Arab diplomacy on the Gulf crisis on hold, the Kuwaiti delegation can act as a catalyst to fill the vacuum created by such frozen inter-Arab contacts on the grave crisis facing our world. If there is anything missing in this honourable mission it is the absence of Baghdad on the list of Arab capitals that the Kuwaiti delegations intend to visit. As the genesis of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait can be traced to official disputes between the two countries, involving the people of Kuwait in the search for an equitable settlement between the two sides can go a long way to defuse the crisis.

With even Washington seeking to talk with Baghdad, there can be no justification whatsoever why the pro-U.S. Arab camp should continue to shun negotiating with Iraq. The first U.N. Security Council resolution on the Kuwaiti conflict called for such a dialogue between Kuwait and Iraq and that international request is still binding on both parties. The Kuwaiti popular delegation, like the one visiting Jordan now and others which are going elsewhere, can play the catalyst role of bringing other Arab governments to the negotiating table with the Iraqi side and a visit to Baghdad would provide the very opportunity needed to realise that goal.

This leads one to conclude that there are hardly any disputes or conflicts between the Arab peoples wherever they may be. All existing Arab conflicts are first and foremost among governments and leaderships. The more the Arab peoples take their destinies into their own hands the faster and more effective would be the opportunities to resolve them. In the final analysis, it is the absence of operational democracy in the Arab World that is at the root of the continuing inter-Arab conflicts and disputes. Seen against this background, the symbolic significance of the ongoing Kuwaiti popular delegations' visits to several Arab countries goes beyond the immediate question of Kuwait and the brewing Gulf crisis. It touches on the heart of the matter in the Arab Order and the need to accelerate the process of awarding the Arab peoples the right and opportunity to speak out on the main issues affecting their lives and future.

Here in Jordan the Kuwaiti team's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan Monday and Tuesday also offered another valuable occasion to understand the true position of Jordan on the Gulf crisis. Unlike some Kuwaiti officials who went as far as professing willingness to devastate even their own country in order to take it back Jordan has called for the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait and Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in a sane manner and within an Arab context. Moreover, Amman's position against the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia and in favour of Kuwaiti sovereignty and territorial integrity are clearly not mutually exclusive. We do hope that our Kuwaiti brothers did get the right message from their visit here. Simply put, it is that only a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis will do. War, our Kuwaiti brothers have to understand, is a totally unacceptable option as far as we are concerned.

Columnist Views Visit

JN0512101190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 90 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "A Talk About the Duty of the Kuwaiti Popular Delegation"]

[Text] We are very sympathetic toward the Kuwaiti popular delegation's task and we respect its members. If this delegation wants to understand Jordan's position, our clear stand is the same as it was before and after 2 August. And we are willingly and proudly paying the price of this stand. If the delegation's task is to make us understand their viewpoint, then they are very late in coming and have remained silent for too long, since the Americans are already negotiating with Baghdad. It is quite possible that the members of this delegation themselves could have been the negotiators, specifically on 6 August.

The American leader wants to negotiate on behalf of international legitimacy. By all standards, he has discounted the national will of all the Arabs rallied in Hafr

al-Batin. The Iraqi leader, on the other hand, will negotiate on behalf of two legitimacies: international legitimacy, under which the Security Council resolutions would have a unified application in Palestine, southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and Kuwait; and Arab legitimacy under which there is a nation called the Arab nation with an entity, interests, and dignity, and that one cannot scorn and rob and allow family companies to control its resources, unity, and future. The freedom of the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians in their homeland is exactly like that of the Kuwaitis, which means the freedom of pan-Arab will and liberation from the Zionist occupation and the U.S. hegemony in all its forms.

The Kuwaiti popular delegation knows these facts and knows that our whole country stands alongside Iraq in confronting American imperialism. This is because the issue is no longer that of Kuwait within its limited Arab framework. The issue is that of the Arab nation in which we here still believe. We know its enemies and friends. We were hoping that the Kuwaiti popular delegation would hold a news conference on the first day of its arrival to explain its ideas and opinions so that its activities would have an acceptable basis, which would give scope for dialogue. Since it believes otherwise, out of our concern to make its task more successful, we advise it to hold such a news conference and to answer questions clearly so these answers can form the basis for dialogue acceptable to the Jordanians.

Here are some questions we would like to ask:

Does the Kuwaiti popular delegation believe that what happened and is happening in the Gulf arena is really the result of the Kuwait issue, or that the international Kuwaiti efforts can rally all these forces, fleets, and international resolutions? Or is it that the United States and its allies have taken control of the Kuwaiti issue and given it this size.

Does the popular delegation agree with what Shaykh Jabir said and with his humble request to the U.S. secretary of state in al-Ta'if to return Kuwait to him at any price and in any way possible, even if it is returned as a wasteland? Does it agree with Shaykh Nasir al-Sabah's statements in Australia on the need to attack Baghdad with tactical nuclear weapons? Does it approve of spending six billion dollars, which the shaykh gave to the U.S. secretary of state from the funds of the Kuwaiti generations' future as a price for the deployment of the U.S. and Atlantic forces in the Gulf?

Does the delegation agree on waging an American war whose arena is Kuwait, knowing that half their people are living there and that this destructive war will not allow them to leave safe and sound as did the ruling family?

Does the delegation believe that the United States is a friend of the Kuwaiti people's freedom, Arabism, national entity, and interests and that Iraq and these millions of Arabs are the enemies of Kuwait's freedom, national entity, and interests?

Will the delegation tell us, as it comes from al-Ta'if, the nature of the negotiating requirements carried by 'Izzat Ibrahim to Jeddah and the nature of the requests carried by Shaykh Sa'd?

And, will the delegation answer the question put to the Kuwaiti government in al-Ta'if about its readiness to negotiate with Iraq and its pledge, should Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, not to call in and finance the U.S. troops, and declare that the Kuwait issue will be returned to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti framework, as stipulated in the first Security Council Resolution 660?

It is impossible for the Kuwaiti popular delegation to hold talks without answering these questions. We either talk with each other as Arabs or as allies of the Americans. And as our English friends say: You cannot have your cake and eat it too.

As for the Jordanian press and its bias toward Iraq, our brothers in the delegation must remember that the free press is biased toward the freedom of the nation, Arabism, the fighters, and those standing in the face of the backward U.S. and Zionist tyrant. Balance in the press does not mean putting summer and winter on one level. Since we publish statements by Bush, Baker, and Thatcher, that is enough to inform our people of the other opinion.

Paper Hails EC Plan To Talk With Iraq's 'Aziz

JN0512093390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 16

[Editorial: "EC Initiative Reinforces Political Option"]

[Text] It seems that the circle of dialogue between Baghdad and Washington is expanding to include important international parties that might effect, to a large extent, defusing the Gulf crisis, and help the political dialogue to reach appropriate solutions to all regional issues.

The EC, which found itself almost isolated and on the margins of the crisis following Bush's recent step, has moved to redress its role which was frozen by the U.S. Administration, and play a role in the political option similar to its role in the military one.

Without doubt, it was a clever move on the EC's part to call for talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on his way home from Washington following his meeting with President Bush.

France in particular, knew how to enter the arena of political dialogue with Baghdad and the Arab nation from its widest doors, when its Foreign Minister Roland Dumas announced the need for holding an international conference to resolve all regional issues, beginning with the Lebanese issue and ending with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf crisis.

This is the tone acceptable to Baghdad and the Arab nation. It is close and almost agrees with the Iraqi 12 August initiative.

Hence, we must confess that the EC was quicker than some Arab regimes, which are standing in the U.S. trench beating the war drums, in assuming a role in the political efforts and endeavors. These regimes have not made a move, bearing in mind that they, in the first place, should be the ones to snatch the initiative from Washington and begin dialogue with the Iraqi leadership.

At any rate, we welcome the EC initiative and the clear French position, which is the most advanced. We hope that Moscow and Beijing would take the initiative and revive and renew their positive roles on the political option in order to hold an international conference to tackle all regional issues on an equal footing, instead of letting the U.S. Administration unilaterally administer the crisis and direct it in accordance with its narrow and selfish interests, even if this is at the expense of security and stability in the region and the entire world.

Iraq 'Much to Gain' From Withdrawal

JN0412093390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 p 4

["The View From Fourth Circle" by Rami G. Khuri: "Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West"]

[Text] Whatever his motives may have been, George Bush has done something sensible in proposing talks with the Iraqi government, and one hopes that these days will mark a turning point for the better in the Gulf crisis (though it was pretty mean of him, at this moment of hope for at least psychological detente, to let loose Dan Quayle on us...). Both Washington and Baghdad now have to come to grips with the hard new realities of the world, and act accordingly during the upcoming talks.

For Americans, the Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West, the new realities mean that the expressions of pan-Arab identity and national political expression must be accepted, rather than confronted, as the fundamental power balance in this part of the world shifts. The forces of Arab domestic autocracy are losing ground, while the fusion of the forces of democratic pluralism, pan-Arab nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining ground (note the Jordanian Parliament as a good example of trends which should dominate much of the rest of the Arab world in coming years).

For Iraq, the new realities mean that it will have to withdraw from Kuwait, because the entire world, including all the Arab states, agree on this point. I would think that Iraq has much to gain politically from announcing during the coming six weeks that it is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, if a satisfactory structure is established which would allow bilateral disputes with Kuwait to be resolved fairly. Iraq and all the Arabs will emerge with considerable political gains, because the fundamental political issues of concern to the vast majority of Arabs have been dramatically placed on the agenda of the world.

Specifically, political trends in the Arab World and Arab-international relations are likely to change for the better, because the Gulf crisis to date can count five clear achievements:

1. It has pointed out the deep bitterness and anger throughout much of the Arab world against the politically docile surplus wealth of the Gulf oil-producers which is largely invested outside the Arab world. Inter-Arab trade, aid, investment and labour flows should become more mutually productive and rational in the wake of the crisis, given the recognition of the repercussions of the wide socio-economic disparities within the Arab world.

2. It has pointed out the importance of democracy and participatory government as a right of all Arab nationals, and is likely to speed up the spread of democratic pluralism throughout the Arab countries, including the Gulf, Iraq, Syria and others.

3. It has rekindled the embers of Arab nationalism, and heightened awareness of a) the ravages of the dismemberment of the Arab Nation by the British and French after World War I, and b) the need to integrate pan-Arab human, natural and material resorces in order to achieve Arab aspirations to development and dignity.

4. It has bluntly reawakened the world to international double standards applied in different conflicts in the region, and has added a sense of urgency to resolving the Palestine issue in a just and permanent manner.

5. It has forced the Western powers, especially the United States, to look beyond the flag waving and the sloganeering of the "new world order," and to start recognizing that there is nothing new, worldly or orderly about a global vision which sees freedom, democracy and integration in Eastern Europe but domestic autocracy, economic regression, regional dismemberment and international subjugation and exploitation in the Arab world.

These are powerful gains, which should be nurtured and harnessed for future Arab objectives. I believe they can be, and thus we may be entering a moment of the most significant historical change in the region since the days of European infamy and duplicity in the first half of this century. The urgent priority now is to avert a catastrophic war in the Gulf and simultaneously to launch a political dialogue on all the outstanding issues which plague the region.

Iraq must realise that it cannot stand alone against the world, and if it maintains its rigid position, the world will liberate Kuwait through force. The economic, human and political cost of a Gulf war will be great, especially to the Arabs. I suspect that this is the moment for Iraqi leadership to assess its gains and losses todate,

and to act accordingly. I also suspect that it has done precisely this, which explains its positive response to the Bush proposal for talks (along with the cigarettes and fruits and vegetables to the embassies in Kuwait...).

The fact that Washington and Baghdad are soon likely to be talking directly in a highly visible dialogue of senior officials is going to make the Arabs look rather foolish if they remain as they are today, split into two camps that barely talks to one another. Therefore, I would look for a serious effort at inter-Arab reconciliation in the very near future. This is vital because if Iraq is going to make concessions, it will not make them in the context of the Arab world, within a larger framework of international legal and moral guarantees—but that Arab World is now two Arab worlds that have to get back together again. This process of intra-Arab reconciliation seems to me the most important aspect of the next phase of this region's history, for it will have to include a process of sorting out the true from the false among Arab political sentiments, and sorting out the merchants and the nationalists among the Arab political leaders. When the marines go back home, the Arab world will embark on a long-term process of political accountability and reorganisation which will sort out our Marcoses from our Aquinos. A better Arab world will emerge from the process.

If we can resolve the immediate crisis without a war, the net result of the conflict shall have been to have violently shaken up all the elements of this region which have combined to bring us to a historical low point in the late 1980s. One can argue, as I do, that the occupation of Kuwait was not the most appropriate way to resolve a key local problem which symbolised many of the larger problems of the region. But such arguments are meaningless, because Iraq did occupy and annex Kuwait, and therefore we have to deal with the real world.

The real world tells us that there are a score of deeply complex and often historical problems that are root causes of this present crisis. If Iraq plays its diplomatic cards carefully, it should be able to call in the assortment of hints, gestures, confessions, promises and offers that Western and Arab capitals have made in recent months vis-a-vis key Arab and international issues—such as resolving the Palestine problem, redressing inter-Arab imbalances, implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions with equal vigour in all cases, or applying a single standard of international morality and law to all conflicts in the region.

This seems to me a major victory for the cause of Arab rights and justice, as well as for regional stability and international peace. The Iraqis will be able to claim considerable credit for such achievements in a post-conflict era—if they can use the dialogue that seems about to begin to reorient the resolution of the region's problems from a military to a political mode.

Banknotes To Be Changed; Mossad Blamed

JN0412085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has plans to change the current banknotes in circulation since 1975 into a new set of paper money. This was just reported in "Jordan Economic Monitor" a monthly news letter published by Jordan Times columnist and economic consultant Dr Fahd al-Fanik. The newsletter specialises in insider information and analysis of the Jordanian economy.

Two reasons were given for the switch in currency (1) The current banknotes were put in circulation 15 years ago, and therefore it is time to upgrade the Jordanian banknotes to match the state of the art. (2) The Jordanian Security apparatus and the Central Bank have determined that the Israeli authorities are involved in producing advanced counterfeits in substantial amounts. The new banknotes will be smaller in size and more difficult to forge.

The Monitor also said that Jordanian banknotes had been subjected to forgery on several occasions, whether in their present forms and designs which were put in circulation in 1975-1976, or in their previous forms which were withdrawn from cirulation subsequently.

The earlier forgeries of the seventies were exclusively in the JD-10 denomination, which was then the highest denomination.

The current forgeries (first in November 1987 and recently in February 1990) have focused exclusively on the new denomination of JD20. The 1987 forgery was technically crude and of very limited success. The recent 1990 forgery is technically a serious and deceptive counterfeit. Between February 1990 and November 1990 about 300 forged notes have been received by the Central Bank of Jordan from various sources. The only major source of forgery was the occupied territories. It is now fairly established that the forgery has been masterminded by Israel intelligence services (Mossad), and that large amounts of the JD 20—perhaps in excess of JD 6 million have been printed.

Financial Agreement Signed With Germany

JN0312210290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] In the Ministry of Planning, a financial agreement was signed today between the Jordanian and German Governments, according to which the German Government will provide a loan of DM20 million. [passage omitted]

Italy Gives $26.5 Million 'Contribution'

JN0312110790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following a Jordanian request of financial aid in order to cope with the effect of the Gulf crisis on the national economy, the Italian government decided to concede to Jordan, for the years 1990 and 1991, a contribution of 30 billion lire (about $26.5 million), over and above the ordinary cooperation programme between the two countries.

The aforesaid contribution will be disbursed partly as emergency food aid (rice and sugar for a respective amount of 6 and 4 billion lire). The remaining 20 billion lire could be utilised for a grant in other items (10 billion) and for soft loan for the purchase of Italian goods (10 billion).

Over and above this contribution of 30 billion lire, the Italian government had already supplied Jordan, directly or through international organisations, with about $7 million for the needs of the expatriates from Iraq and Kuwait.

The Italian aid is part of the effort of the European Community—of which Italy has now the presidency—to help the economy of Jordan in the present difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, the bilateral Economic Joint Committee will meet in January in order to enhance the ordinary cooperation programme between the two countries through the concession by Italy of new grants and soft loans to Jordan.

Japan To Make Loan To Cut Crisis Effects

JN0212115290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Nov (PETRA)—The Jordanian and Japanese Governments signed an agreement to exchange memorandums, at the Planning Ministry today. Under this agreement, the Japanese Government will extend an easy-term loan in the Japanese yen equivalent of $100 million to finance Jordan's imports and services.

The loan is part of the Japanese Government's contribution to alleviating the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy.

Ports Body Reports Active Al-'Aqabah Traffic

JN3011105390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, PETRA—The port of al-'Aqabah is now seeing an active traffic of ships arriving to unload Jordan's imports of commodities and goods and of ships arriving to be loaded with national exports, especially phosphate and chemical fertilizers.

Eng. 'Awad al-Tall, director general of the Ports Corportation, said that 18 ships are currently anchored at the port, some of which are carrying various commodities to Jordan and the rest are for shipping Jordan's exports to the world, especially phosphate and chemical fertilizers.

He said there is a shortage of manpower at the port, especially for loading and unloading as a result of the active traffic there. He said the port needs approximately 400 Jordanian workers, and invited Jordanian workers to apply for jobs at the port, especially since the corporation provides accomodation, meals, and transportation for workers at minimal rates.

Agriculture Minister on Effects of Gulf Crisis

JN0512120590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Dec 90 p 6

[By Ma'mun Baydun]

[Excerpt] Amman, (PETRA)—Agriculture Minister Dr. Sulayman 'Arabiyat has said that the agricultural sector should be viewed from an overall perspective, and that a national clear-cut agricultural program should be set in cooperation with all sides to tackle agricultural problems. He added that the agricultural sector has been affected a great deal by the Gulf crisis, that there has been a sharp drop in agricultural exports, and that the Jordanian farmer has been directly affected by this crisis. He noted out that the government has adopted several measures to deal with the situation and to reduce its impact on the agricultural sector, that it has established an emergency plan, and that alternative export markets are being sought.

During a dialogue held at the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he said that the appropriations allocated for agriculture in the 1991 budget have been fair toward enabling the agricultural sector to perform its duties and maintain its development and progress. He stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Agriculture Ministry and the House of Representatives' agricultural affairs committee to establish joint positions between the executive and legislative branches regarding the agricultural sector, means of developing it, and efforts to deal with farmers' problems, particularly the debt problem. Following is the text of the dialogue:

Question: What effect has the Gulf crisis had on Jordanian agricultural exports in particular, and on Jordanian agriculture in general?

Answer: Several months ago, we used to talk about plans and programs, propose work strategies and mechanisms for the agricultural sector, and view the future of agriculture with optimism and hope. However, despite the efforts of the agricultural and political administrations, which tackled the agricultural issues, along with the farmers' efforts, which form the basis for the development of agriculture, we find that the agricultural sector is now facing some difficulties that were imposed from outside, particularly by the Gulf crisis. The effects of the

crisis began to appear after our agricultural exports to Kuwait stopped. Our losses at that time were estimated at 3 million dinars a month. This was followed by a stoppage of these exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our attempts to discuss this issue with our Saudi brothers were not successful. Our estimate of the direct losses to Jordanian agricultural exports as a result of the Gulf crisis is 105 million dinars a year. However, the losses are not confined to this sum of money only. This is because the agricultural sector is interrelated with other economic sectors. So, when agricultural exports drop by 105 million dinars, this drop could lead to other losses amounting to twice that amount. For example, we have 400 trucks, only 40 of which are being used.

Also, the shift to other crops will directly affect the income of Jordanian farmers, in addition to the increased cost of production materials following the crisis because some Arab states have, for example, banned the export of urea to us. Consequently, the price of fertilizers increased from 80 to 160 dinars per tonne, while the price of plastics increased from 800 to 1,600 dinars per tonne.

Moreover, issues related to securing imports have been harmed and farmers have become unable to settle the amounts they borrowed prior to the crisis, which prevents them from getting further loans.

Also, distrust prevails over relations between farmers and businessmen because farmers are now unable to pay for the materials they buy. Previous production relations have changed. Most farmers have become unable to settle the costs of basic services provided to them. This situation altogether will lead to unemployment in the agricultural sector.

He added: Jordanian agriculture was established on complementary bases, based on Arab agricultural cooperation and integration. We did not establish the King 'Abdallah Canal to produce tomatoes, cucumber, and squash for the Jordanian citizen. We borrowed and invested to establish the infra-structure for the Arab agricultural integration. Therefore, abandoning Jordanian agriculture under the present circumstances is considered abandoning the Arab food security program. We did not carry out these investments to fulfill the Jordanian citizen's needs alone, which we could have done through other less costly means and ways, and we could have invested in other projects.

Question: What steps have been taken to face this crisis and decrease its effects on the agricultural sector?

Answer: We have adopted an emergency plan in cooperation with the food security committee established by the prime minister, which includes deputies and representatives from the professional organizations and the private sector on the one hand, and the higher agricultural council on the other. The plan is based on a clear strategy with specific programs and executive mechanism. These three conditions are the major elements of success in any plan.

The plan focuses on exploiting available land, water, and grazing land, and exploiting government-owned land for planting grains; particularly wheat, barley, and fodder. It also focuses on planting those crops from which we suffer a shortage such as potatoes, garlic, and onion, among other things. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Interviewed on Greater Beirut

JN0312212590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1752 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Albert Mansur by Nabil Haydar, George Nawfal, and Salim Badawi in Paris on 3 December; reporters not further identified—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Excellency Lebanon's Defense Minister Albert Mansur: We are pleased to have you in our Monte Carlo studios. You know that the Lebanese Army today went into al-Ashrafiyah neighborhood and the legitimate government is reestablishing complete authority over Greater Beirut which, for the first time since 1975, is now clear of heavy weapons and armed militias. What do you think?

[Mansur] I am just as pleased as the next Lebanese over this measure. The Greater Beirut notion was agreed on 21 November, and the following day I made the announcement that Greater Beirut is the gift of the independence day. The agreement was implemented in full in the form it was agreed upon on 21 November. The point is not just the entrance of the Army into al-Ashrafiyah but the deployment of the Army throughout Greater Beirut. Today at 1000 GMT the last armed group of the Lebanese Forces [LF] pulled out from al-Ashrafiyah, and then the Army began deployment as of noon today in Greater Beirut—from Nahr al-Kalb, to the Damur River, to the sea in the West; to 'Alayh; then to the upper al-Matn to Sannin on the east, including the international Beirut-Damascus highway. All these points are now under the control of the Lebanese Army and are free of weapons or armed elements or any illegal armed manifestation. As I have said, this is the first step since the beginning of the Lebanese civil war, and we hope it will mark the first step on the road to the end of this war.

[Reporter] Before the LF completed their pullout from al-Ashrafiyah, LF chief Samir Ja'ja' last week said the other forces had failed to remove all their weapons, particularly heavy weapons, from the areas where they maintained a presence within the perimeter of greater Beirut, especially from the southern suburb. How accurate is this information? Can you confirm that the militia groups have withdrawn all their weapons from greater Beirut?

[Mansur] I may have to correct the LF leader's remark. This is not the first time the other militia forces have departed Beirut. There was such a withdrawal from the district when the brotherly Syrian Army entered Beirut in 1987, when the bulk of the heavy arms were removed. Some weapons remained and were later withdrawn. The point now is not to make sure that all the weapons have been removed. It is that with the Army deployed in Greater Beirut the Lebanese Army will have control over security, and so all potential arms caches will be raided and whatever items are seized will be viewed as illegal weapons. Those who still keep weapons will take the responsibility, and the Lebanese Army will confiscate them. With the Lebanese Army now deployed in greater Beirut, not a single piece of weaponry will be allowed to remain in greater Beirut. We will confiscate all arms depots and all illegal, unlicensed weapons.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the Minister: I have a question that might be outside your jurisdiction in the Defense Ministry. We have heard recent reports and read newspapers and magazines, and there was confusion in Beirut about some disagreement between President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss.

[Mansur] I do not think that there are differences among those in power in the real sense of differences; there might be various ways of understanding some issues. However, as Prime Minister al-Huss said, there might sometimes be variations in interpreting some situations, but there is no disagreement between those in power. According to my information and to the best of my knowledge, there is no disagreement in the real sense of disagreement. It is natural that from time to time there would be various interpretations. But we have always reached an understanding on disputed issues in the end. Various interpretations have never created a real disagreement. According to my information, there is no disagreement in the exaggerated sense which is talked about. There might be various interpretations, but certainly there is no disagreement.

[Reporter] It seems the problem lies in the way to implement the al-Ta'if agreement and the constitutional aspect of it.

[Mansur] As for implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, this requires the cooperation of all parties. I liken the al-Ta'if agreement to a play in which there are roles; there are roles in that agreement. The role of various institutions was defined: The Presidency of the Republic, the Council of Ministers, the Chamber of Deputies—all have their roles. Performing these roles, therefore, requires the cooperation of all directors, and I think the directors are the Lebanese people and all those concerned with public affairs who have an interest to see the al-Ta'if agreement implemented, to see Lebanon out of the state of war and into a state of peace, and to see institutions function properly. There is no doubt that the practice of the past 50 years has left a legacy to all parties. Therefore, this could occasionally lead to some practices which might seem or appear to belong to a previous constitution or the 1943 Charter or a previous way of practice. However, this will not be resolved overnight or in a single moment. There are certain roles which require joint efforts and cooperation of all parties in order to be performed successfully.

[Reporter] How long are you going to stay in the Defense Ministry? I mean the new government.

[Mansur, laughing] Of course you know that I am not responsible for forming governments. My staying on at the Defense Ministry depends on the new ministerial reshuffle. As for the formation of the next government, here the issue is rather related to the political steps that

will follow Greater Beirut. I think that there is a stage that is concerned with consolidating the establishment of Greater Beirut. This stage might be short or long according to the response of various parties. I do not think, however, it is going to be a long stage. After that there are a number of political steps that should be discussed and implemented. Here we have two views, not only among those in power but in the country as a whole. One view advocates the immediate formation of a government—expanding the government and giving room to parties which could not have representatives when the current government was formed. After that the files of the next government can be opened. There is another view which holds that it might be better to agree on all files together and form a government. This view advocates the arrival of a government which understands these issues in advance. This might facilitate implementation and make it more effective, without any problems. The inclination toward either view has not yet been decided upon. I prefer a discussion in advance because it is difficult to have a government crisis if the situation is not prearranged—or at least if there is no agreement on the latter steps, that is how to implement the al-Ta'if agreement which provides for three basic issues in the next political file. These are appointing the members of the Chamber of Deputies to fill the vacancies; disbanding militias; and drafting practical guidelines for relations between Syria and Lebanon according to the al-Ta'if agreement. We have three basic political axes, and an in-depth discussion of these axes might be useful so as to agree on the formation of the next government and solidify the next steps without having any problems on the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement by the next government. There is another view that holds that all these issues can be agreed upon within the Council of Ministers that might be formed before agreeing on all these issues, especially since the broad outlines of these issues are contained in the al-Ta'if agreement. So I think that the argument on the priorities in this context has not been settled yet.

PSP Says Government Submits to LF 'Extortion'

NC0312185590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has said that the regime has frustrated the hopes which had been attached to Greater Beirut. In a comprehensive political document defining the party's stand on various current issues, the party said: The regime has destroyed the substance of the 13 October operation [to oust Michel 'Awn] and frustrated the hopes which had been attached to Greater Beirut as a first step to demonstrate the state's credibility. This was reflected in the hesitation over, leniency toward, and submission to the Phalangist [Lebanese] Forces' extortion. The said forces used the 13 October operation to remove their rival Michel 'Awn so that they could gain control of the Chrisitian decision-making process and impose their views on the legitimate government.

With the support of the United States, Israel, and most members of the government, the said forces succeeded in dictating their terms after launching a wide-scale campaign to cast doubt on the Army and preoccupy most political powers and mass media with what they termed violations in the al-Matn regions.

The forces also succeeded in obstructing in Greater Beirut the deployment of the Syrian Arab Army that was actually responsible for the 13 October operation, asserting on every occasion that the al-Ta'if agreement provides for Syria's withdrawal from, rather than deployment in, Lebanon. They also succeeded in preventing the deployment of certain Lebanese Army brigades in al-Ashrafiyah and the coastal area. This consecrated division within the Army and strengthened evil motives.

The statement adds: Greater Beirut, which was stillborn today, has caused that team to flourish and to obtain several political, security, and economic gains. The forces are still in control of Beirut port, al-Karantinah, and the areas around it where they retained a large number of gunmen and weapons. They also retained al-Ashrafiyah in practice since the Army elements in control there are loyal to them rather than to the military institution.

The PSP, which has rejected this policy and has raised its voice against it, warns against this policy's negative effects at the general national level and on Lebanon's future. The team which managed to achieve all this will spare nothing to pursue the same policy in other arenas. It will coerce the government on all the articles of the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

Syria Holds Contacts To Ensure Army Deployment

NC0312063490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence of the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon, has returned to Beirut and begun intensive contacts to ensure that the Army deploys in Greater Beirut and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Amal Leaders View Contacts Over Army Deployment

NC0412184390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri met today with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and reconnaissance for the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Speaking after the meeting, Birri said intensive efforts are still under way to implement the remaining clauses of the Damascus agreement [between Amal and Hizballah] regarding Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Minister Birri said the Greater Beirut Plan is the first step in a 450-km area. However, the remaining 10,000-km area is more important, and what is even more important is maintaining strength, stability, and nationalism before embracing the remaining area of the homeland.

Amal Political Bureau member Haytham Jum'ah has declared that contacts continue actively at both the Syrian and Iranian levels to seek the implementation of the Army deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said some details require further clarification and discussion so that this step is not stillborn or incomplete.

Speaking in a radio interview, Jum'ah noted that the Damascus agreement stipulated that the Army will be deployed from the Siniq River to the al-Zahrani River within one month of the date of its signing. He added that such a deployment will safeguard Lebanon in general and the south in particular and will signal the start of its liberation by all means, whether through resistance or through contacts to ensure the implementation of Resolution 425.

Lebanese Forces Withdrawal From Ports Examined

NC0512090890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Now that Greater Beirut has been established with its flaws and security violations, attention is focused on more than one issue. The first issue deals with Greater Beirut itself and the need to correct its defects, especially because of the extensive official talks in this connection. What is needed are real, practical, and sound steps. The second issue is a parallel one and is connected with turning over the ports to the legitimate authorities. It is an issue that must be handled as one integral whole and not piecemeal. The third issue—perhaps the most important one—deals with the stage that will follow the establishment of Greater Beirut, a stage in which a new balanced government will be formed that will faithfully express the voice of national accord.

With regard to the first issue of the ports that some parties have involved in the current political bargaining for the same reasons which accompanied the Greater Beirut's political bazaar, an official source of the Lebanese Forces told the AL-DIYAR newspaper that a prior agreement was concluded between the Lebanese Forces and the legitimate authorities stating that all the ports will be handed over to the authorities at the same time, based on the idea that no illegal port must be closed while other illegal ports continue to operate. The source explained that agreement was reached to implement this measure simultaneously with the establishment of Greater Beirut, and that customs offices were to be established all along the Lebanese coast from Tyre to Tripoli: in Tyre, Sidon, al-Jiyah, al-Awza'i, Beirut, Juniyah, Sil'ata, Shikka, and Tripoli. Although the Giants [militia of former President Sulayman Franjiyah] have announced that they will turn over the Sil'ata Port to the authorities, no position on this issue was announced by Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri. Indeed, some parties again raised the issue of Beirut Port by itself. This contravenes the agreement already reached. The Lebanese Forces official asserted: Either the Beirut Port and all the other ports are opened [under state authority] or we will operate the Beirut Port's Fifth Dock.

The official said he hopes that what has been agreed upon will be implemented so that Greater Beirut will prove to be a solid and permanent step.

A Lebanese Forces official source expressed reservations about the current status of Greater Beirut. He said that Greater Beirut has been nominally but not seriously implemented. This attitude is not intended to cast doubt on Greater Beirut but is an attempt to correct the course of incomplete steps. If the truth is ignored, obstacles will be placed before any future step that the legitimate government seriously wants to implement in order to establish its authority in accordance with the peace process.

The Lebanese Forces source noted that while the Lebanese Forces have actually withdrawn from Greater Beirut, the other parties have not. This means that the implementation of Greater Beirut was not serious, nor did the other parties in southern and northern al-Matn, upper al-Matn, 'Alayh, West Beirut, and the Southern Suburb deal seriously with this issue. The source stressed that the legitimate authorities must be serious about establishing security, otherwise the Greater Beirut Plan will turn into a farce. Indeed, the plan itself will carry the seeds of failure and impermanence.

Hizballah Rejects Withdrawal From Ridges in Iqlim

NC0512084690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] An official Hizballah source has emphasized Hizballah's rejection of the call to withdraw from the ridges of Jabal Safi, the areas that are adjacent to Agent Antoine Lahd's forces in Jazzin, because this will destroy the resistance. The source said: Hizballah cannot negotiate on strangling itself.

The source added: Hizballah has no objection to the Army's deployment in Jba', Jarju', 'Ayn Qana, and all the villages, but it cannot reliquish the resistance's positions in the ridges of Jabal Safi and al-Luwayzah and the summits of (al-Lita) and al-Rayhan.

First of all, Hizballah cannot withdraw from al-Luwayzah because there is no one there. Hizballah does not mind abandoning the town of Mlikh and others, but it will not agree to strangling the Islamic resistance. The source indicated that the Damascus agreement is clear-cut and unambiguous, adding that the agreement calls for activating and strengthening the resistance. The Army's deployment on the ridges of Jabal Safi will not be to protect the resistance but rather to crush it.

'Terrorist' Killed, Two IDF Soldiers Injured

TA0412124890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] One terrorist was killed and two Israeli soldiers were lightly injured in a clash last night between an Israeli Army unit and a terrorist squad in the security zone's western sector.

A Giv'ati Brigade unit was conducting an initiated operation north of the village of Ramiyah, about four km northeast of Moshav Zar'it, when it spotted a terrorist squad moving toward Israeli territory. The soldiers opened fire, and in the ensuing exchanges one terrorist was killed and two Israeli soldiers were lightly injured.

Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, called on the soldiers this morning to hear additional details about the clash.

Last night's operation is yet another link in the series of initiated actions the Israeli Army is taking against terrorists trying to infiltrate Israeli territory to strike at innocent civilians living near the northern border.

LAW [light antitank weapon] launchers, RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades], and Kalashnikov magazines were found near the body of the terrorist.

Palestinians Claim Responsibility

NC0412152090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Heavy fighting raged between Israeli Forces and gunmen in the al-Hasbani area today. It has been reported that Israeli helicopters took part in the clashes. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for the operation.

Meanwhile, AFP cited security sources in the south as saying that two Israeli soldiers were seriously wounded during clashes with gunmen near Marj 'Uyun.

Israeli Reinforcements Brought Into South

NC0512070490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Israel continues mobilizing forces in the south. According to reports from the area, all crossings in the eastern sector [of the occupied border strip] were closed between 1500 and 1800 GMT yesterday while Israeli reinforcements—estimated at 25 tracked vehicles, 15 troop carriers, and 20 other military vehicles—were brought into the area.

Muslim Leaders Criticize UN Resolution on Gulf

LD3011221390 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Nov. 30, IRNA—Senior Lebanese ulama say the new Security Council resolution authorizing use of force against Iraq indicates "the hostility of the U.S. against Muslims and third world countries"

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Tawhid (Unification) Movement said "the resolution approved (by the Security council Thursday) betrayed the insolence of the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain and France. The four together with China, are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. China abstained in Thursday's voting against Iraq.

"It indicated that those who are living their shameless lives by sucking the blood of nations and plundering Islamic wealth can never even pose as supporters of humanity," he told a Friday prayer gathering here.

"This is the height of impudence for the Security Council to keep mum on the (need of) expulsion of Israel from Palestine and ignore 40 years of occupation while it is ready to take revenge on Muslim nations of the region for Saddam's aggression," he said.

Whether war breaks out or not, the U.S., like the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, would fail to achieve its goals and in that case American mercenaries would find no safe place in the region, he warned.

The ITM head also blasted King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for sheltering infidel crusaders and said "with such shameless acts, he (King Fahd) has committed a treason against the Prophet of Islam (Peace Be Upon Him) and helped the apostasy and blasphemy dominate the sanctities of Muslims."

Meanwhile, Allama Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah criticized the Security Council for authorizing the U.S. and other countries to use force to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait while leaving many other crises in the region unsolved.

Addressing a group of worshippers at a mosque in southern Beirut Fadlallah said the Security Council has always ignored occupation of Palestine by Israel and failed to take severe punitive measures against that regime, but it has now allowed the U.S. and other western countries to mobilize all their capabilities against Iraq.

"We have never approved of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and still want it to withdraw from that country. But why doesn't the Security Council discuss the issue of Kuwait with that of Palestine together in order to make a decision on them equally?" he questioned.

Junblatt, Fadlallah Discuss UN Resolution, War

NC0112065590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has commented on the recent UN Security Council resolution by saying: I regard the Security Council resolution as a preparation for, if not a hastening of, an

international war. Despite our condemnation of the invasion of Kuwait, we see this as a serious matter. It is wrong to abandon the principle of negotiations. No one in the Arab world or even in the United States can know what consequences such a war will have.

Junblatt added: In my view, a change in the political and geographic maps is in the offing. The primary winner will be Israel; Shamir has declared that Israel should extend from the sea to the river.

Junblatt met with Chinese Ambassador Yang Yihuai in al-Mukhtarah and reviewed developments with him. He stated after the meeting: We took this opportunity to thank the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people for the hospitality we were accorded when we visited that great country. We exchanged views on various world developments. Undoubtedly, China's stand at the United Nations is a wise one and will have favorable repercussions on Arab-Chinese relations. It was not a reckless stand like those of other countries. We hope that we will be able to spare the Arab region war and its destructive consequences.

In the same connection, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. In his Friday sermon yesterday, he said: We do not believe that war is the only option.

Fadlallah added: We do not believe that war is imminent because if it breaks out, it will not merely destroy the Iraqi regime but also the oil fields and Europe's and America's interests.

On Lebanon, Fadlallah asserted that the problem lies in the fact that the state's attitude still falls short of the standard required to lead Lebanon toward a peaceful future. He declared that the regime's mentality has not measured up to the level of future aspirations and said that this mentality has not changed. He pointed out that sectarianism continues to govern official administrative views with regard to all current issues.

Regarding Iqlim al-Tuffah, Fadlallah emphasized the need to implement the Damascus agreement to the letter. He stressed that the people's attitude encourages optimism that this file will be closed once and for all.

PSP-PLO Rapprochement, Agreement Reported

NC3011190990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] A question is being raised behind the scenes: What is looming on the horizon after the Iqlim al-Tuffah agreement and are there any new alliances in the Lebanese arena that might have an effect on the situation in general?

This and other questions have received undeclared and indirect answers. According to our correspondent, a rapprochement has been noted between 'Arafat and Junblatt. Signs began to appear after Junblatt-'Arafat relations passed through difficult phases.

Within this context, late last month Junblatt requested a mediation by Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, to soothe the atmosphere between the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and the PLO in accordance with the guarantees which 'Arafat wants. Indeed, a meeting took place between 'Arafat and Ibrahim in Yemen.

Out of the PLO's fear of Junblatt's ambivalent stands, 'Arafat asked that the PSP leader make explicit steps asserting his recognition of the PLO's authority over all Palestinians and supporting an understanding between the PLO and the Lebanese state. Junblatt made a statement about 20 days ago in which he asserted his rejection of disarming the Palestinians and demanded a new agreement between the PLO and the Lebanese state. This stand made a good impression on 'Arafat. Junblatt even went beyond this when he received a Palestinian delegation on Monday, 19 November, made up of Salih Zaydan, Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahim, Mahmud Hanfash, Abu-Fadi Raji, Abu-Khalid, and Abu-ramzi. During the meeting, agreement was reached on the bases on which the new relations between the PSP and the PLO will be established.

One of the most prominent points agreed upon was that the PLO would resume financing of the PSP and the Lebanese parties which move in its orbit, foremost of which is the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-the Higher Council. The agreement stipulated that the PLO should organize the ties between PSP and Libya. The agreemnt also stipulated that a prominent Beirut-based newspaper would provide political and media cover for the new alliance.

The Junblatt-'Arafat alliance aims to undermine all the [Lebanese] Government's practical steps due to be implemented in the future. In addition, the alliance will lead to the emergence of the Palestinian role as a political factor parallel to the Syrian role in the Lebanese arena. The first fruit of this alliance is the prevention of unity between the Syrian Social Nationalist Party's two wings.

It was learned that Junblatt is also required to draw Hizballah into the new alliance. Contacts are taking place between Junblatt and Hizballah on this issue. Junblatt is to take the reply with him to a secret meeting with 'Arafat in an Arab capital next week.

Lebanese-Syrian Summit Expected 'Next Week'

NC0112124190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] A Lebanese-Syrian summit is expected to be held in Damascus next week to formulate the basis for future action. President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni will attend the summit.

Meanwhile, press reports today indicate that President al-Hirawi intends to visit Washington after the establishment of Greater Beirut, the formation of a new government, and the appointment of new deputies. These steps will invigorate the state's machinery and will encourage it to approach and request aid from all states. Al-Hirawi will ask Washington to help Lebanon secure loans from a number of international organizations so that it can embark on reconstruction and development.

Beirut Notes Plans To Reopen Several Embassies

NC0112074190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] A prominent government source has stated that U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker will remain in Lebanon for the time being but that no date has yet been set for reopening the U.S. Consulate [as heard] in Beirut.

The source said that the American diplomats' return to Beirut is a positive development especially as other countries will follow the U.S. example and reopen their embassies in Lebanon. In addition some Arab countries, including Jordan and Kuwait, are preparing to reopen their embassies in Lebanon.

Hizballah Delegation Leaves for Iran Conference

NC0212071690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A delegation from the Hizballah leadership and another one from the Muslim Ulemas grouping have left for Tehran to attend the conference on support for the intifadah which will be held in the Islamic Republic this year.

The Hizballah delegation includes their eminences 'Abbas al-Musawi, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, Ibrahim al-Amin, and brother Husayn al-Musawi.

Al-Kassar Brothers Named as Palestinians' Armorers

PM0312100590 Madrid ABC in Spanish 21 Nov 90 p 28

[Unattributed report: "Dealer Living in Spain Supplies Arms to Palestinian Terrorists"]

[Text] Madrid—Intelligence services consulted by this newspaper regard the brothers Mundhir and Ghasam [name as published] al-Kassar, of Syrian nationality, as the main suppliers of arms to two Palestinian terrorist groups. According to these sources, the former supplies the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] and the latter the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Special Commandos [as published]. They purchase the arms in East European countries.

Mundhir al-Kassar, who has a mansion in Marbella, where he is in the habit of spending lengthy spells, was temporarily expelled from Spain in 1987 as a result of pressure on the Felipe Gonzalez government from various news media accusing it of protecting this individual, who is linked with drug as well as arms trafficking. The expulsion order expired last April, but Mundhir al-Kassar visited Spain last year despite having been forbidden entry. Facts such as this have been interpreted as the government's turning a blind eye. It has been said more than once that Mundhir al-Kassar was a collaborator of the Spanish intelligence services.

The completely reliable circles consulted by ABC cite Mundhir al-Kassar as one of those responsible for supplying arms to the PLF terrorist organization led by Abu-al-'Abbas. The same circles state that this terrorist, the brains behind the hijacking of the liner Achille Lauro, was picked up in Yugoslavia by a private aircraft owned by Mundhir al-Kassar after the PLF leader had mediated in that criminal operation in order to induce the hijackers to end their action.

All of Mundhir al-Kassar's operations are carried out with maximum security measures, and in Spain, for instance, no evidence of this individual's alleged involvement in selling arms to terrorist groups has ever been found. Only France, following an attack committed within its territory by a Palestinian terrorist group, has accused this individual of supplying the arms with which the criminal action was perpetrated. As a result of this action, a Paris court issued a national warrant for Mundhir al-Kassar's arrest. The French judiciary's decision not to issue an international warrant on the same lines caused great surprise among the security forces of other European countries.

Mundhir al-Kassar, who was also linked by various media with the Irangate affair, owns businesses in Syria, Vienna, and Marbella. He owns an electronic equipment enterprise called "Alkistroni" in Vienna and a real estate company in the Spanish city.

In addition, Ghasam al-Kassar is held responsible for supplying arms to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Special Commandos terrorist group. Zaki Hilu, former leader of this organization's military wing, was gravely wounded in an attack on him in the Paseo de la Castellana in Madrid, when he was traveling in a car accompanied by Ghasam al-Kassar, who was unhurt.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Special Commandos was responsible for the attack perpetrated in the El Descanso restaurant, in which 18 people—11 Americans and seven Spaniards—were killed.

The sources consulted by this newspaper state that the al-Kassar brothers buy arms in East European countries and then distribute them among the above-mentioned Palestinian terrorist groups.

Paper on Forces' 'Mission' in Saudi Arabia

JN0512090390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Pan-Arab Mission," TISHRIN says that the journey from Riyadh to Hafr al-Batin is not easy. One has to travel 500 kilometers in heavy traffic. This area, which was not known to many people, has become famous because it could be the scene of a possible clash with an Arab country.

The paper continues: Clearly, our men realize the enormity of their mission in that sensitive region in which oil and gunpowder exist side by side. Our fighters know they are there to defend a brother and prevent another brother from continuing his mistake, aggression, and tyranny.

They have come to Hafr al-Batin to defend the honor of the Arab nation, the Arab land and its wealth, and to put confidence and security into the hearts of our brothers. Syria's soldiers, the soldiers of Hafiz al-Asad, are carrying out the greatest pan-Arab mission and are fulfilling a human goal.

Concluding, the paper says: Our forces in Saudi Arabia are fully aware of why they are there and the possible consequences of their presence. They also believe that the issue concerned is a big issue which should be dealt with in a pan-Arab spirit. This will determine the fate of Arab solidarity sought by Syria and viewed as a basis for confronting the growing Zionist danger threatening the entire Arab existence.

Bangladesh

Ershad Resignation; Opposition Moves Reported

Ershad Resigns 'Immediately'

BK0512013090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In accordance with the declaration made by President Ershad in his address to the nation on Monday last, he has decided to resign from his office immediately. President Ershad has also invited political parties and alliances to nominate a person to be appointed as a vice president who will take over the charge of acting president. In order to have the appointment of the new vice president ratified by parliament under the Constitution, the president has summoned the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] on Saturday [8 December].

President Ershad hoped that the political parties and alliances will come forward with their nomination of the vice president as soon as possible.

The president has also declared that elections to the Jatiya Sangsad will be held before the presidential elections.

Immediately after the president's announcement of the resignation, [words indistinct], in different cities, including capital Dhaka. (?They welcomed) the resignation of the president this evening.

Eight-party alliance chief Sheikh Hasina and seven-party alliance chief Begum Khaleda Zia have welcomed the president's decision and said it is a victory of the people.

Begum Khaleda Zia Appears

BK0412120490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (AFP)—Top opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia appeared in public Tuesday after remaining in hiding since a state of emergency was proclaimed in Bangladesh last week.

Begum Zia, who heads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, addressed a public rally in downtown Gulistan district against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Mr. Ershad proclaimed the state of emergency November 27 in the face of growing anti-government agitation which started October 10 and opposition sources say has so far left more than 100 people dead.

Mr. Ershad announced Monday he would step down 15 days before calling general elections in 1991, but gave no specific date for the polls.

His offer was rejected by the opposition which demanded he step down immediately and vowed to continue its eight-year campaign to oust him.

Opposition Calls For Peace

BK0512080690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] [passage indistinct] In a message broadcast over radio and television this morning, Begum Khaleda Zia said we have to start work for building a happy society for the economic emancipation of the people and restoration of democracy, which was the goal of our movement. She said we must be tolerant and exercise restraint in this (?task). Any lawlessness due to emotional outbursts may [words indistinct] from achieving our final goals and it will bring frustration among the people.

Referring to lawlessness and unhappy incidents at some places, she said attacks on [word indistinct] and damaging property for reasons of personal enmity are completely repugnant to democratic movements. Begum Khaleda Zia called upon leaders, workers, and people all over the country to keep strong vigil against these and said only peace, restraint and discipline can lead the movement to its final victory.

In her message, Sheikh Hasina expressed her firm determination for creating an environment in which elections for a sovereign parliament can be held after handing over to a neutral and nonparty government and exercise of the right of franchise in accordance with the hopes and aspirations of the people. She hoped the people will play the firm role, as in the past, for establishing democracy. She said the (?process) of victory in the democratic movement by the country's farmers, workers, students, as well as well people of all walks of life must be maintained at any cost and the struggle must be continued till the ultimate victory is achieved.

Opposition To Choose Vice President

BK0512091690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 5 (AFP)—Bangladesh's divided opposition, which joined forces to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, was meeting here Wednesday in an attempt to reach agreement on his interim successor, opposition sources said.

The two major opposition groups forged a joint platform during recent intensified unrest which prompted the shock announcement late Tuesday that Mr. Ershad would hand over power.

The announcement was greeted by wild celebration here followed seven weeks of anti-government demonstrations which opposition sources say left some 100 people dead.

Crowds congregated here Wednesday to demand Mr. Ershad's arrest and trial for alleged crimes committed during his rule while witnesses said a high security prison was stormed by mobs who released detained opposition activists.

In a televised statement late Tuesday, the opposition was invited to nominate a vice-president who would take

over as interim president after ratification by an emergency session of parliament summoned on Saturday.

The Awami League-dominated eight party alliance of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh National Party [BNP]-led seven party alliance, a five-party leftwing alliance and several other opposition parties have been spearheading the campaign to oust Mr. Ershad, 60, who took power in a 1982 bloodless coup.

But the Awami League and the BNP are mutually suspicious and accuse each other of past wrongs. Their unity may not hold up long enough to decide on an interim president, observers said.

They buried their differences on November 19 to announce a joint framework for peaceful and constitutional transition of power.

Mr. Ershad, who declared a state of emergency on November 27 to contain opposition protest, has apparently bowed to their demands and his resignation would pave the way for fresh elections under the interim president within 90 days according to the constitution.

Mr. Ershad visited his secretariat in Tejgaon district briefly Wednesday, reliable sources said, but since his resignation announcement normal government had ceased to function, according to official sources.

Ministers, ruling party leaders and senior civil servants were unobtainable, according to a secretariat official who said, "it appears that normal government machineries are not functioning."

Sources close to the opposition said an emergency meeting of an opposition liason committee would likely select Bangladesh Chief Justice Shehabuddin Ahmed as a compromise vice-presidential nominee. An uncontroversial figure who has attempted to keep the judiciary independent, he would be acceptable to both main parties, they said.

Retired Air Vice-Marshal Abdul Karim Khandker, a former ambassador and planning minister under Mr. Ershad, was also named and is thought to be favoured by sections of the Awami League.

Meanwhile thousands of cheering residents chanting anti-Ershad slogans choked the capital.

Witnesses said demonstrators had stormed the city's central high-security prison to free detained opposition activists. Opposition sources say hundreds of activists have been arrested in the past seven weeks.

Crowds chanted for the arrest and trial of Mr. Ershad and his associates, as was demanded in a statement from the Dhaka University Teachers Association.

Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia had earlier appealed for calm in speeches broadcast on state radio and televison.

In the southern port city of Chittagong, angry mobs looted 50 rifles from a local gun club and crowds stormed the private residence of Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and homes and offices of other local ruling party members, witnesses said. No injuries were reported.

New Vice President Chosen

BK0512135290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 5 (AFP)—Bangladesh's three major opposition political alliances have chosen Shehabuddin Ahmed, chief justice of Bangladesh, as their consensus candidate to be the new vice-president, opposition sources said.

He was selected following the decision of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to step down in the face of opposition pressure.

Journalists End Eight-Day Strike 5 Dec

BK0512072090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The journalists have called off their eight-day strike immediately following a decision taken by the Federal Union of Journalists at an extended meeting held in Dhaka this morning. The journalists went on countrywide strike on the 27th of last month in protest against the declaration of emergency and imposition of (?drastic) press censorship. No newspaper was published in the country during the strike period.

India

Iraq Allows Another Group of Indians To Leave

BK0412161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Iraq has allowed 29 more Indian nationals to return home out of the nearly 200 employed in Baghdad. The Indian ambassador in Baghdad, Mr. K.N. Bakshi, said they have been allowed to leave on humanitarian grounds. Meanwhile, the government has discontinued mail service through diplomatic bag for Indians in Kuwait and Iraq as most of the Indian nationals have returned home from these countries.

Swiss Bank Papers on Bofors Deal Called For

BK0512011190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] India is to get papers of the frozen Swiss bank accounts of A.E. Services relating to the Bofors kickbacks. A CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] spokesman said in New Delhi that a Zurich judge handed over the papers to the vice director of the federal department of police and justice, Mr. (P.A. Schmidt), in Berne today. Mr. (Schmidt) told CBI that the papers will be sent to India through diplomatic channels. This will

be the first time that India will be receiving Swiss bank documents on the Bofors deal which will be treated as evidence in the payoff case.

Mass Grave Found; Army Action in Assam

BK0512071490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] In Assam, security forces today found 15 decomposed bodies in a mass grave in the Lakhipathar forest area where the outlawed ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] had set up its camps. Disclosing this to newsmen at Guwahati, the governor's adviser, Mr. P.P. Srivastava, said some of the bodies had their hands tied behind and their eyes blindfolded. Efforts are on to identify the bodies.

Meanwhile, combing operations to nab ULFA extremists are continuing throughout the state. With the arrest of 91 more persons from different parts of the state during the last 48 hours, the number of those arrested has gone up to 350. The overall situation throughout the state remained by and large peaceful today. An official spokesman in New Delhi said one ULFA [extremist] has so far been killed by the Army and two by the Assam police. Ten others have been injured in separate encounters. Our correspondent Maheshi Sur who visited some ULFA camps captured by the Army recently has filed this report:

[Begin Sur recording] Normalcy is coming back in the jungle areas of Lakhipathar and upper Assam near Digboi where Army had to undertake a combing operation against the underground ULFA activists a few days back. The panic-stricken people, who had fled away from their villages due to the Army operations in the area, now started coming back and resume their agricultural activities. But some of the villagers have still not returned. However, Army is still continuing its combing operations in the area to find out the other ULFA hideouts in the forest. It is maintaining a strong vigil in the area. Army has so far been able to capture eight ULFA camps, including its so-called general headquarters, and a six-bed hospital in this 15 square km jungle area.

According to the Army authorities, each of those terrorists camps could provide shelter to 150 ULFA extremists at a time and as many as 700 other activists used to come there during the day time for their training. In the early morning of 28th November, just after the imposition of the president's rule in Assam, the Army was called to combat the ULFA extremists. Army started proceeding to the jungle from three different points, namely Digboi, Dhuliajhar, and Makum. Extremists fired from their automatic weapons and used land mines, but the Army could succeed with only light machine guns. Indigenous arms and ammunition, including some unnumbered vehicles and communication equipment, were seized. [end recording]

Maoist Militants Kidnap Seven State Officials

BK0412161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist militants] belonging to the People's War Group have kidnapped seven state government officials in Warangal District today. They are demanding the release of one of their colleagues arrested today on criminal charges.

22 'Terrorists' Killed by Forces in Kashmir

BK0512045490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Kashmir, 22 terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the border belt of Kupwara District yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession. Security forces also arrested 45 subversives during searches in different parts of the valley.

Sikhs Strike in Bombay, Three Policemen Killed

BK0412162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 4 (AFP)—Sikh militants from the northern state of Punjab struck in Bombay on Tuesday, killing three policemen and injuring a motor-rickshaw driver, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Eleven others died in violence linked to the Sikh militancy in Punjab late Monday and Tuesday, PTI reported separately.

Four Sikh gunmen fired indiscriminately with light machine guns outside the Pawai telephone exchange in Bombay's Kanjurmag area, killing instantly sub-inspector of police Lakhamer and constables Shivaji Bhosle and Shitaram Devake, PTI said.

The motor-rickshaw driver was seriously injured, police were quoted as saying.

The militants opened fire when a jeep in which they were travelling jumped traffic signals.

The Sikhs fled, and police later found the abandoned jeep at Bombay's Tagore Nagar area, four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the scene of violence, PTI said.

Police in Bombay, considered to be India's business capital, launched a search for the attackers soon after, the agency said. It did not report any arrests.

In Punjab, militants shot dead a constable, Amrik Singh, in Gurdaspur district and four civilians in Amritsar and Ropar districts, PTI said.

Sikh gunmen raided the house of Senior Superintendent of Police Sita Ram, a Hindu, elsewhere in Gurdaspur district late Monday.

Mr. Ram was not in the house and a security guard was injured in the attack, PTI said, adding that the raiders fled when guards fired back.

Some 3,100 people have been killed so far this year in Punjab in connection with the militant campaign for an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or Land of the Pure.

Curfew Set in Gujarat After Renewed Violence

BK0512094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Padra in Baroda District following fresh incidents of violence last night. The police opened fire to disperse a violent mob indulging in stone throwing, looting and arson. In Godra and the city police station area of Baroda City, curfew relaxations have been given only for children and women following an improvement in the situation.

Curfew in Uttar Pradesh After Violence

BK0512045690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the death toll in the curfew-bound areas of (Ganja Dhundhwala) in Etah District has risen to four following the recovery of two more bodies this morning. An indefinite curfew was clamped in the town yesterday when a group of persons attacked the car of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member of parliament, Miss Uma Bharati. She was to address a rally in the town. Miss Bharati escaped unhurt. AIR's [All India Radio's] Kanpur correspondent, quoting the inspector general of police, reports that about 50 shops were burned in group clashes and several persons were injured. The situation is tense but under control.

Soldiers Killed by 'Armed Gang' in Tripura

BK0512103090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] In Tripura, two BSF [Border Security Force] personnel were killed when a 15-member armed gang ambushed a BSF patrol party in (Surti) in Tripura District yesterday. Another wounded jawan [soldier] died on way to the hospital. The BSF patrol party was carrying the salary of the jawans. Quoting BSF sources, the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that the BSF party fired about 36 rounds in self-defense and the miscreants fled away. Additional forces have been deployed in the area for combing operations. The Tripura government has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

VHP, BMAC Meet on Disputed Shrine Issue

BK0412165290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP] and the Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee [BMAC] have decided to exchange documentary evidence in support of their claims over the Ayodhya temple issue. The two sides which held their second round of talks in New Delhi this evening decided to furnish their documents to the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, by the 22d of this month for circulation among all concerned. Both the sides agreed to meet again on the 10th of next month after scrutinizing the documents. Besides Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh [UP], Rajasthan, and Maharashtra also participated in the discussions which lasted 90 minutes. Representatives of the VHP and the BMAC said that they had candid discussions and felt that their talks have helped in reducing tension. In a joint statement they said that the improved climate must be maintained in the national interest.

Mr. Sahay told newsmen that no specific proposals were discussed at the meeting and the exchange of views is a move toward finding a peaceful solution to the issue. Replying to questions, the union minister said the proposed kar seva [voluntary service to build the temple] on Thursday [6 December] did not figure in their discussions. The Congress-I suggestion for a commission of inquiry to ascertain historical facts regarding the issue also did not come up.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Malayam Singh Yadav, described the talks as positive. Asked whether the UP government would allow the kar seva program, Mr. Yadav said the VHP has promised that it would be a peaceful satyagraha. He said the prevailing atmosphere in the state is good and our effort will be to maintain it.

A representative of the VHP, Mr. Kaushal Kishore, said that there is no change in the proposed kar seva satyagraha which would be peaceful. Asked whether VHP is satisfied with today's talks, he replied in the positive, adding that this is the only way of finding a solution.

Mr. Mohammad Afzal, who attended the talks as a representative of the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid [prayer leader of Delhi's grand mosque], reiterated their opposition to the satyagraha. However, he said, they are participating in the negotiations taking a long-term view of the problem.

The Indian Union Muslim League in a statement has opposed the kar seva and has urged the center and the UP government to prohibit it. The two communist parties, the CPI and CPI-M [Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India-Marxist], are of the view that the kar seva would aggravate the situation. In separate statements, the two parties expressed the hope that the VHP and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] should defer their plan for the kar seva.

A delegation of the BMAC called on the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in New Delhi today to express their views on the Ayodhya temple issue. The UP chief minister was present at the meeting which lasted half an hour.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Palestinian Issue

LD0412191990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Speech by 'Ali Hoseyni Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to Palestinians and scholars from the Islamic Conference on Palestine in Tehran on 4 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

Perhaps one can say that the present meeting has placed on its agenda the most important problems of the world of Islam. Truly today, in the context of the lives of the Muslims and on the Islamic horizon, no problem is as grave and as important as that of Palestine. For more than 40 years, Muslims have been forced to get used to the occupation of part of their home. At stake is not merely the usurpation of the home of Muslims; the issue is beyond that.

The problem is that the enemies of Islam in the world have turned a part of the home of the Muslims into a trench from which to mount attacks on Muslim lines and to fight against the demands and moves of Muslims.

Unfortunately, within the world of Islam, those who were in possession of resources and who could adopt effective decisions on that problem have sent it into oblivion—not so much verbally, but rather in reality. Yet, if we think about it, we will realize that this is a very grave calamity to befall Muslims in the contemporary era.

The Islamic verdict applicable to this problem is self-explanatory; not a single Muslim can have a shadow of a doubt as to the verdict applicable on the Palestine issue. In all the books in which the topic of jihad is discussed, this problem has been laid out as if the infidels have captured or surrounded the city of the Muslims. None of the Muslim theologians, whether belonging to the old times or the contemporary times, has doubted the universally binding nature of jihad being applicable to that case. All the Islamic sects converge on this point. Jihad is a religiously binding duty on a limited scale but not regarding this issue. Of course, primary jihad is a religious duty binding on a limited scale. Defensive jihad, the most obvious application of which is that case, is a religiously binding duty on a universal scale.

Yet a problem of such obvious magnitude and import is today given attention in the Islamic world as if it is a secondary issue.

Of course, primarily the heads of Muslim countries are guilty. If the leaders of Muslims and the heads of Muslim countries decide in a united and serious manner to liberate Palestine, they can succeed. Regarding the Palestine problem, the objective is the liberation of Palestine, that is, the annihilation of the State of Israel. There is no difference between the territories occupied before 1967 or after 1967. An inch of the territory of Palestine is an inch of the house of Muslims. Any sovereignty on Palestine other than the sovereignty of the people of Palestine and the sovereignty of Muslims is a usurper's soveriegnty.

The last word is what our late great imam uttered when he said that Israel had to be annihilated. If the Israeli Jews accept the Islamic government, then they can live there. The issue is not one of animosity to Jews; the issue is that of usurping the home of the Muslims. The heads and leaders of Muslims, had they not been under the influence of the world powers, could have achieved that important task. Unfortunately, they failed to do so.

Today a major event is taking place inside these territories, namely the Islamic uprising. The Islamic uprising, which is entering its fourth year these days, is that very thing, and its aim is to liberate Palestine, and it is that very thing which Israel's supporters and those who created Israel feared.

Hopes were pinned on it; now, today, this hope has been realized; it is a divine blessing. It will survive if we remain thankful for it; otherwise, it will not remain. To be thankful for it, all Muslims must regard support for these strugglers, who struggle in the name of Islam, as a religious duty. There is no escaping it.

The support must be on a massive scale; it must be comprehensive and must include political support, propaganda support, moral and military support. It needs all sorts of support, and such support is a religious duty.

Muslims worldwide should find out how they can help. Whatever they can do becomes their religious duty, and they should not refrain from performing their duty.

Those who chant slogans in the name of Israel often overlook two points. We briefly mention these two points: The first point is that hostility with the usurpers cannot coexist with the friendship toward those who are staunch supporters of these usurpers. This is impossible. Those who imagine that through the United States and its allies, they can save Palestine, are making a regrettable mistake.

Just as one cannot save Palestine through the government of Israel, one cannot save Palestine through the U.S. Government and its allies, either. Any move which might lead to reliance upon the supporters of the usurping government is definitely a deviant move and definitely a big mistake. This was the first point.

Anyone who chants the slogan of hostility with Israel but discusses the problem with Israel's allies or relies on them, must be lying. Such a combination is impossible. Those who feed Israel are on the same front as Israel. Those who assist Israel, in whatever form, they are on Israel's front. Those who talk with the Zionists are on Israel's front.

A struggle for the liberation of Palestine should really mean a struggle. A struggle is the opposite point of a compromise. Compromise on this issue is treason, and struggle is a duty. No one should put compromise in the same rank as struggle.

The second point is this: One of the actions that prepared the ground for the creation of the usurping government from the first day was the propaganda waged by the worldwide propaganda system of the Zionists and their friends. This action is securing the survival of the usurping government today, too. They have pretended in front of world public opinion as if those who are ruling there are the owners of the house, and some uncultured people are creating problems for them.

Unfortunately, they have instilled this idea in the world. They have worked on this work—propaganda work—to convince the world public opinion and world culture. We, the Muslims, were negligent. We, the Muslims, did not decode the enemy's propaganda method. We did not exploit the best methods so as to express the justified stand of the people of Palestine.

What I am trying to say, in brief, is this: All the intellectuals, writers, artists, and those who know something about publicity all over the world should feel fully duty bound and perform their task on this matter. Since World War II, the Jews all over the world have made hundreds, perhaps thousands, of films to depict themselves as aggrieved victims and those who had opposed them, true or false, as tyrants. The cruelty that the nation of Palestine is subjected to today is unprecedented. No entire nation has ever been subjected to so much cruelty, as far as we know and remember.

World public opinion is not aware of this cruelty, unfortunately. This must be expressed properly. Films should be made. There should be works of art, so that the entire world public opinion realizes what is happening. Unfortunately, we must confess that our intellectuals and those who could, have shown complacency. We must present the problem of Palestine to the world as it is. Investment should be made to meet this objective. Individuals should strive and work for this objective. This is a point that we have neglected.

Finally, I wish to raise one more point. Today, after the Islamic Revolution's demonstration of Islam's effectiveness, the enemies of Islam and the Muslims have become more serious. The Islamic Revolution created new fronts just by presenting Islam, just by demonstrating that Islam is against tyranny. Just like that. It made the people understand that a true Muslim is the one who does not submit and surrender to bullying, oppression, and the world hegemony. This angered the hegemonists immensely and created new fronts against Islam. One can see the examples of these fronts all over the world. You can see this in Europe, where measures are taken against the Muslim groups and individuals, and you can also see it in Africa, where such measures are undertaken to confront genuine Islam. You can see other examples of these in Islamic countries, where pressure is exerted on Islamic movements. It is different in different countries. You can see some examples in other countries, like India.

The issue of the Babri Mosque is one example. The subject of the problem is a mosque. To some, it might seem a small problem, but it is not a small matter. This shows that the enemies of Islam are planning to provoke a group against Islam's sanctities. They plan to make life bitter for Muslims in a country such as India. No doubt this move of the Hindus, the fanatic Hindus, stems from provocations of the enemies. This mosque has existed there for many years. Everyone could see that somewhere in India a mosque and a temple were existing side by side. They were busy with their own rituals. It was the provocation of the enemies, the enemies of Islam, who organized these provocations and turned the issue of the Babri Mosque into a daily problem of the Muslims. Of course, the Muslims of India are justified on this issue, and everyone should realize that the world Muslims are behind the Muslims of India on this issue. They believe they are right, and, therefore, they support them and defend them.

There are new, hostile moves against Islam all over the world. What one should conclude from this can be said in one sentence, and this is: The Muslims should be more serious in defending Islam.

The Muslims should truly consider themselves soldiers of Islam and perform their soldierly duty. The enemy undoubtedly will not be able to do anything in the face of a united movement of the Muslims, and Islam and the Muslims, who rise with determination in defense of Islam, will definitely be successful.

May God grant success to us all in defending Islam. [passage omitted]

Conference on Palestine Continues in Tehran

Velayati Speaks

LD0412121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The opening of the first Islamic conference on Palestine in Tehran and the speech by Foreign Minister Velayati at the opening ceremonies of the conference is the topic of our first news report.

[Unidentified reporter] On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people and marking the anniversary of the intifadah, the first Islamic conference on Palestine was opened this morning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of Political and International Studies with a speech by Foreign Minister Velayati and with the participation of the leaders of the Islamic and liberation movements, the representatives of Lebanese struggling groups, and a number of domestic and foreign scholars, experts, and thinkers.

Honoring the memory of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, Mr. Velayati said: Today, as the result of the movement which was started by the great leader of the Islamic revolution in the present age, Islam is enjoying such a glory and honor that without doubt one can claim that today the Islamic movement is the sybmol and the embodiment of independence, freedom, and the establishment of a system of justice and fairness throughout the world.

Continuing his speech, he referred to the fact that the world of Islam is now passing through special and decisive conditions, saying: Today Islam, which has been entrusted to us as a divine trust, has been subjected to the severest trials of the age, and any mistake and deviation in the proper understanding of the conditions and the situation of our time and any weakness and slackening in the implementation of the duties which have been placed on the shoulder of the Islamic ummah would inflict heavy and irreparable blows on it.

Mr. Velayati said: The Palestinian aspiration is the most important priority of the world of Islam, and the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories which is now recognized by the whole world in the word intifadah is the start of a new chapter in the struggles and campaigns of this Muslim nation.

Referring to the serious and profound dangers which are now threatening the world of Islam and the revolutionary movement of the Palestinian people, he pointed out: World arrogance, whose desperate attempts have been expanded more than at any other time as the result of the present developments in the international arena, has concentrated all its efforts on the transfer of the so-called Jewish emigrants to occupied Palestine. On the basis of all the facts and all the evidence, one can confidently claim that these issues are not merely a simple transfer of the so-called emigrants; on the contrary, they are part of a major expansionist war by the Zionist enemy which has been imposed on the Muslim nations of the region, as well as on Palestine.

Mr. Velayati then described the conditions existing in the Persian Gulf as very critical and decisive and said: The Persian Gulf crisis, which came about as the result of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and which led to the dispatch of foreign forces to the region, has had fundamental and important effects on the issue of Palestine and will continue to do so. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Fadlallah Addresses Conference

NC0512085290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has asserted that the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis have produced the current Gulf crisis. In a speech to the Islamic Conference on Palestine in Tehran, his eminence denounced the various defeatist plans which are being proposed to resolve the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that the Zionists have not succeeded in extinguishing the flame of the Palestinian revolution despite 40 years of oppression.

Ayatollah Fadlallah added that the crises in the USSR and Germany, and perhaps soon in Korea, have been settled. He noted, however, that when it comes to Palestine, all solutions have been frozen.

Fadlallah, Others Meet With Velayati

NC0512093690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of Lebanon's outstanding clergymen, met with Mr. Velayati last night. During this meeting the two sides discussed the problems of the Lebanese Muslims, the recent developments in Lebanon, and other regional developments. The two sides also pointed out the importance of the common interests of the Islamic world and emphasized that the need for worldwide Muslim unity.

Mr. Fathi Shaqaqqi, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awdah, and Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman Abu Jihad, leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement and guests participating in the first Islamic Conference on Palestine, also met with Mr. Velayati yesterday afternoon. During this meeting Mr. Fathi Shaqaqqi expressed his satisfaction that this conference is being held in Tehran and expressed the hope that the Islamic Conference on Palestine can create a strong basis for a comprehensive support for the intifadah and an expansion of the Palestinian jihad. He also pointed out: We hope that this conference will succeed and we will do our best to fulfill its objectives.

Mr. Mustafa Mashhur, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, who has come to Tehran to participate in the Islamic Conference on Palestine, met with Mr. Velayati along with Mr. Ghalib Himmat. During this meeting Mr. Mashhur pointed to the Zionist aggression and to the need for Muslim unity to confront this aggression. The deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood stated that now a true example of Islam and of the Islamic shariah should be sought in Iran and said: We too want a system like this.

Foreign Ministry Views UN Human Rights Resolution

LD0512093190 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman here Tuesday described as unacceptable any abuse of human rights as a political means and said it was necessary for the U.N. Human Rights Commission to pay due attention to legal and ideological frameworks of the Islamic Republic.

The spokesman was commenting on approval of a draft resolution at the U.N. on Tuesday on status of human rights in Iran.

He said that efforts have been made with a relative degree of success to keep the resolution allog [as received] of political considerations. However, Iran still considers it insufficient because of the inevitable influence of Reynaldo Galindo Pohl's, U.N. special human rights envoy, report on the resolution.

Iran, emphasizes that the Human Rights Commission should pay due consideration to the ideological and legal structures of the Islamic Republic and avoid political grudges in investigation of human rights.

"This point must be clarified to all the defenders of human rights that the Islamic Republic of Iran under no condition will quite legal regulations and laws of Islam and that human rights issue can be investigated in Iran only if it is aloof of political motives and is with understanding of these values," he stressed.

He added that Galindo Pohl's report provided the U.S. with an opportunity to exploit the situation and efforts were made to approve a strongly-worded resolution against Iran on the basis of the report.

However, he added, [the] tone [of] the resolution was modified due to Iran's firm stand and another draft was presented to the commission dropping the baseless allegations.

Authorities Execute 27 Drug Traffickers

LD0412213490 Tehran IRNA in English 1934 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec. 4, IRNA - Twenty seven members of a drug trafficking gang were hanged in the ground of the 'Dizelabad' Prison in this western city Tuesday morning.

The hanged traffickers had been widely involved in buying and selling of narcotics in Bakhtaran and Zahedan (Sistan-Baluchestan Province).

Habibi Meets Polish Minister Majewski

LD0312183290 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi today opposed the giving of any concessions to Iraq by the West, in his meeting with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski here today.

Iraq has committed a blunder by occupying Kuwait, he said and repeated Iran's call for the "unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces and also of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf."

Majewski in reply hailed the Islamic Republic's stance vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis, worsened by the U.S.-led foreign military build-up, and said Warsaw also wants Baghdad to withdraw its forces "unconditionally" from Kuwait.

"Kuwait territorial integrity should be guaranteed," he said and insisted on respect for the international borders as a "key to the settlement of the crisis."

The two also called for expansion of mutual relations.

Kharrazi Urges UN To Condemn Zionist 'Atrocities'

LD0412094290 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 4, IRNA—The U.N. Security Council was attacked by Iran on Monday for its unjustifiable delay in the consideration of the U.N. chief's report to the Security Council on the atrocities of the Zionist regime in the occupied Palestine because of pressures from the U.S. and certain other administrations.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in its report of October 8 on the killing of at least 21 Palestinians and injuring of hundreds of others in an attack by the Zionist soldiers on al-Aqsa Mosque has called on the Security Council to adopt effective measures for safeguarding the lives of the Palestinian people.

Iran's U.N. permanent envoy Kamal Kharrazi in an address to the session of the U.N. General Assembly Monday night referring to the report of the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East said, "Between 1 July 1989 and 30 June 1990, 8 Palestinians were killed in Gaza and 164 in the West Bank, more than 20,000 sought emergency medical attention in local hospitals and the agency's clinics." Among those martyred there were 24 children under 15 years of age, he said adding that some 1,640 were treated for beatings.

More on the U.N. chief's report, Kharrazi said that Palestinians live in a state of constant terror whether at home, in the work place, at school, in places of worship or in the streets.

Expressing no surprise of the brutal practices of the Zionist regime which has been forged by aggression and occupation, he stressed that the occupying regime sees no other way for its survival "but to perpetuate its illegitimate existence through further aggressions and repressive practices such as torture, murder, plunder, demolishing of houses and altering the demographic and economic structures in the occupied territories."

Kharrazi also touched on the illegal wide-scale immigration of Jews to Palestine and underlined, "transfer and settlement of large groups of Jews in the occupied territories, followed by expulsion of Palestinians is being pursued by the Zionist regime to implement its expansionist policy."

Referring to refusal of the Zionist regime to accept a Security Council mission to investigate the situation in an attempt to conceal the gravity of its crimes, Kharrazi criticized certain countries for encouraging the regime to

take inhuman measures in violation of the international law and urged the Security Council to take necessary measures against it.

Also stressing that the Muslim people of Palestine have found it totally futile to conduct peace talks with the occupiers of their homeland, he asserted that the Palestinians will continue their just uprising of 'intifadah' which is the result of 40 years of resistance and struggle aimed at liberating Palestine.

"Nothing should disavow the liability of the international community regarding the sufferings and grievances of the Palestinians in the occupied Palestine. Supporting the righteous demands of the people of Palestine requires vigorous action against the Zionist regime," he added.

Underlining that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the legitimate struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine, Kharrazi said, "It is our firm conviction that the problem of Palestine, the root cause of instability in the Middle East, cannot be solved unless the rights of Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and formation of an independent Palestinian state in the entire land of Palestine are restored."

The Iranian envoy also called on the Muslim people throughout the world to intensify their support for Palestinians.

"We condemn the policies and practices of the Zionist regime and underline that in the process of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem, any plan that will lead to the recognition of the illegitimate regime occupying Palestine will not be able to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people and will not be acceptable to Muslims," he concluded.

At the end of its current debate on Palestine the U.N. General Assembly is expected to adopt at least five resolutions in condemnation of the Zionist regime and in support of the Palestinian rights.

Besharati Receives Lebanese Hizballah Members

LD0312115990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Some members of the Council of Hizballah of Lebanon met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati this morning and discussed the recent events in Lebanon, the method of implementation of the Damascus agreement, and the Amal-Hizballah reconciliation.

Describing the talks as favorable and desirable, the Hizballah Council members thanked Iran for its services in resolving the differences between the groups.

While praising the Hizballah brothers for their services and referring to the importance of unity among all earnest forces, Mr. Besharati called for the continuation of the struggle against the Zionist enemy. He stressed that the Damascus agreement should be fully implemented.

Receives Bahraini Envoy, Message

LD0412120690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Ya'qub Yusif Abdullah, the Bahraini charge d'affaires in Tehran, this morning met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and submitted to him a message from Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al-Khalifah, foreign minister of Bahrain, to Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister. At this meeting issues related to bilateral relations and their expansion as well as regional isues and the Persian Gulf crisis were discussed.

Grand Ayatollah Goes Abroad for Medical Treatment

NC0512095490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, visited His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani at the Tehran airport before the latter's departure for medical treatment abroad.

During his meeting with the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the esteemed leader prayed to God Almighty for his health.

The specialist who is accompanying the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani stated that the ayatollah is suffering from a lung and liver illness which he has had for about three years and stated that his condition is currently satisfactory.

Velayati Leads Delegation to Paris

NC0512100090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati will leave Tehran for Paris this afternoon as the head of a delegation on a three-day official visit at the official invitation of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and in reciprocation for his visit to Tehran.

During his meeting with the French president and foreign minister, the foreign minister will discuss international and regional problems and the Persian Gulf crisis, especially in view of the fresh political activities after the recent UN Security Council resolution.

*Report on 31 Oct Majles Session

91AS0188A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Parliamentary Service—The Majles met yesterday morning. During the session, which began chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi and continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Bayat, the Majles approved nine more articles of the Water and Sewage Companies Formation Law.

Our correspondent reports that in this session the deputies from Tehran, Tabriz, and Kazerun discussed the most important issues of the day and foreign policy.

The Tehran Deputy's Speech

Tehran deputy Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi was the first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. He began by discussing the 4 November anniversary and ways to understand the monarchy form of government in its various aspects. He said: Using careful study along with evaluations of positions at all times, world imperialism uses a variety of military and non-military devices, technological wizardry, promoting technical cooperation, propaganda for welfare, and other things.

He then discussed the war between poor and rich throughout history, and added: The new international economic and political system has never thought about "parallel growth", therefore one cannot be that hopeful about the known and current international system.

The speaker continued: Essential values must be relearned so that through them the enemy's evolution and changes of color are understandable in every way.

Sa'id Taslimi then explained that eliminating poverty demands a full understanding of the so-called reformist efforts among the great powers, and that a naive acceptance of peace and pleasure in this changing world leaves one unaware of many things. He discussed the Islamic revolution's rejection of imperialism and domination. He said: This great Islamic revolution came down like a thunderbolt and will do so again on the heads of the big capitalists, the prophets of public wealth, the long-time blood suckers who milk the oppressed, those who believe in the West, and other corrupted people who grew up in step and speaking in one voice with the claims and policies of the imperialists, who are fundamentally opposed to the true aims of the Islamic revolution and its late esteemed founder.

He stressed that these enemies are continuing their measures in opposition to the values of the Islamic revolution. He said: These people ignore the services of the basic supporters of the Islamic revolution, including the esteemed martyrs, their patient families, the wounded, the handicapped, and the former prisoners of war, and they are not happy and will not be happy about the fact that the revolution and the sacred nation and the center of the contemporary Islamic world, this Iran, wants to control its own destiny.

Continuing his remarks, Sa'id Taslimi discussed the occupation of the spy nest by the nation's youth. Reading the high points of comments by the imam (peace be upon him), he mentioned the existing views of the second revolution. He said: The first view, that the Islamic revolution was strictly loyal under the decisive leadership of his holiness the imam, regarded the occupation of the spy nest as a deeply orthodox and grand measure, exactly on the imam's path, and was one of the most basic steps to erase the footsteps of America and its lackeys, and that it defended it with belief, using defense and support as its reason.

He added: There was another view holding that the actions of the brave students was something like a basic act, and it tried to expand remarks of this kind.

The Tehran deputy then noted that with the revolutionary presence of the people on the scene, the imperialists and their lackeys, despite their anger, cannot find the courage to do anything impudent. He said: As soon as the enemies of Islam saw a degree of unrest among the people of the Persian Gulf area and the Muslims of other Islamic nations, they gathered their courage and carried out the greatest slaughter in Palestine, and in the world they see no basic movement against them.

He added: There was a time when people talked about the slaughters at Dayr Yasin, Kafr al-Qasem, and Sabra and Shatila, and eulogies were sung for them, but today the merciless slaughter of those praying at Dome of the Rock Mosque has stunned and grieved the world of Islam.

Taslimi then noted that the Islamic resistance movement of the young people of Palestine has deprived the Zionists of sleep with rocks and sticks. He said: The Hezbollah of Lebanon and Palestine have understood well that their only way is to act on the guidance of their late imam, the commander of the world's mobilized people.

In conclusion, the Tehran deputy emphasized again the necessity to keep the people on the scenes of the Islamic revolution as the best leverage with which to confront its foreign and domestic enemies. He said: Islamic Iran, as the greatest power and base for the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), is the support and true hope of hundreds of millions of Muslims and all human beings seeking glory who are fed up with the oppression and persecution of rulers like the area's sheikhs, with no will or personality, and the so-called leaders of the Islamic nations who have trampled the noble Muslim lands, especially the land of the divine revelation, with soldiers and commanders of aggressor armies. It is the true support and hope of those who thirst for independence and are waiting for a life without degradation, and certainly the thing that will warm and give hope to their rueful and yearning hearts as in the past is for them to see the unanimous presence of our great and martyr-nurturing nation in all ceremonies, rites, and scenes, especially the commemoration gatherings and the national demonstrations on 4 November glorifying and praising the bravery of the conquering men, some of whom were martyred by the counterrevolution defending the exalted values of the Islamic revolution, and still others at the fronts of light against darkness.

The Tabriz Deputy's Speech

Another speaker at this session was Mr. Anzabi, the Tabriz deputy. He discussed unity and solidarity and the power that arises from it. He said: At the dawn of Islam, it advanced in the Arabian peninsula because of the unity of three people (his holiness the Prophet (peace be upon him), His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him), and Her Holiness Khadijah). It was on this account that Almighty God said in a noble verse of the Ma'idah

Surah: Now that the Muslims are cooperating, you have the power to cooperate for good and piety.

He added: Meaning that if you help each other good things will prevail, piety will reign in society, lest power be used for the opposite purpose.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Anzabi then concluded: One must now note that the enemies of Islam have not calmed down, and they constantly plot on the basis of enmity with Islam. If the Muslims ignore part of their interdependence, in reality they have strengthened the enemies of Islam. The essence of our unity is to please the chief jurisconsult and the leader, and to follow his commands without quibbling.

The speaker then stressed that all the people, especially their representatives, must preserve unity as much as possible. He added: Our main enemy is America and Israel. As ordered by the leader, we must do everything in our power to be equipped and ready for defense.

He discussed the imam's (peace be upon him) command that we must not call for unity and then behave differently ourselves. He said: America has been protecting Israel and vetoing resolutions for about 40 years, and Israel increases its crimes every day in Palestine in support of America. Unfortunately, most of the Islamic governments watch with indifference.

Concerning the problems of the Persian Gulf, the Tabriz deputy said: As the servant of the sacred shrines, these days in the divine sanctuary Saudi Arabia is hosting foreigners and infidels who have come only in their own interest, and not in the defense of Kuwait. Because of the crimes of the Saudis, our dear late imam turned away from the world with an aching heart.

The Kazerun Deputy's Speech

Yesterday's final speaker was Mr. Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadianfard, the Kazerun deputy. He discussed the oppression of domestic and foreign despotism during many years, ending with the triumph of the Islamic Republic. He said: We all see that world infidelity and hypocrisy, more nakedly than ever, have mobilized all their resources to unleash the war of parties against the Islamic nation. They have set out to silence this sacred divine flame, and for several months our neighbor has been aiming his guns at the common enemy of Muslims.

With reference to the triumph of the released prisoners of war, he said: We must not overlook the fact that world imperialism has sent its packs of wild and domesticated wolves to the Middle East, and has defiled the land of the revelation and the other sacred sites of the world of Islam under its devilish boots, and it intends to desecrate the honor of the Islamic nation.

Baqeri-Nezhad stressed the necessity for consciousness, alertness, and being equipped, and called for a confrontation with the uncultured enemies of the world of Islam. He said: With the hope that the blessed and almighty God of our nation will bring all Muslims and oppressed people of the world to the inheritance of the land.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the arrival of God's day, 4 November. He offered congratulations to the students following the imam's line and Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha, and called the occupation of the spy nest a great movement to break America's spell. He said: God's day, 4 November, is a reminder of a movement in which the brave children of the imam, the students, university students, deputies broke the spell of despotism and imperialism, foremost among them world-devouring America, and the path is being continued by the resistance cells of the world Hezbollah movement to destroy the Zionist system ruling the world, to end the occupation of sacred Islamic lands, to break the rings encircling the oppressed and deprived Muslim nations, and by mobilizing the material and spiritual resources of the Muslim and free nations and governments of the world, to throw a steel red rope around the neck of the occupiers of Palestine and hang them, and burn out the evil tree of old and new imperialism with firm blows against the rulers and their visible and invisible supporters, to bring the black, white, and red castles down on their heads, and with an uprising of tens of millions wearing burial shrouds, to purify the Dome of the Rock Mosque from the contamination of warlike infidels, and by forming the Islamic Republic of Palestine, to bring to an end the black career of imperialism in the heart of the Islamic nations. A world thirsty for the culture of the Islam of Mohammad is ripping curtains and breaking idols on the straight path of "There is no god but God," with blades, spears, and the lance of "no," it has targeted the hearts of the enemies of God and the people, eradicated those blocking the liberation of mankind, opening the valves for energy, technology, and the divine unity of the Islam of Mohammad, and taking inspiration from the unchanging model of the age of the spirit of God, Khomeyni, it is opening the school of love, ascension, and gnosis so that the caravan of the great world family may embrace the same absolute joy of the two worlds on the path to God.

The sultans of the South, North, West, and East and the gangs of the Mafia, if they have no religion in this sensitive time, are free men, and with inspiration from the guidance and advice of the late imam and the exalted leader, let them adopt the poor people's path of the social justice of Islam.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker said: Those who are learned in the exigencies of the time, with their high perception and insight into the relationship between creator and created, understand well that amassing the wealth and income of tens of thousands of families is the main reason for the poverty of tens of millions of human beings. This wealth must be used for the creation of extensive and productive employment and the markets of the world should be filled through the production of masses of agricultural and industrial goods. Let those who compete for wealth stop feeding on the emaciated

bodies of empty-handed and tormented people, let them come to grips with the world devourers. Let the pen and the word be directed at them, and the blade of terms and sacred concepts be used in the struggle against them.

In conclusion, the Kazerun deputy, noting that he had memos for the respected Majles, said: Using the experiences of the parliaments of the world and employing committed experts in the necessary fields, the Majles must identify the chief problems of Iran and the world of Islam, and by choosing the best, most useful and most effective solutions and policies to solve the complex problems and complexities of Islamic societies it must take basic and fundamental steps, and with guidance, supervision and control, it must carry out its divine and political responsibility.

Meanwhile, the Majles guidelines must be amended so that maximum use is made of specialties during sessions, and extraneous deputy responsibilities and tasks must be turned over to administrative units to enable the respected deputies to spend more time doing the essential work of representation.

Finally, I ask the respected Council of Ministers, these people chosen from the hezbollahis following the imam's line, to fulfill their religious duty to the Majles, the government, the genuine Islamic movement, and especially this brave great man in the history of Islam more than before by publishing a book of the memoirs of the great teacher, this child of the chief jurisconsult and the theology of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), and give joy to the soul of the imam.

Session Agenda

After the talks by the deputies, the Majles went into its agenda and the deputies continued discussion and study of the Water and Sewage Companies Formation Law, for which the report from the second council had begun the previous session and one article had been approved.

This report states that after explanations from the relevant commission, comments from opponents and supporters and study of proposals received concerning its articles, nine more articles of the law were approved.

According to our parliamentary correspondent, yesterday's session ended at 12:10 and the next session was set for Sunday of next week.

Pakistan

PDP Chief Comments on U.S. Aid, Assassination

BK0512045890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Democratic Party, has said the government should inform the nation on the suspension of U.S. aid to the country. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said national consensus is necessary to solve economic and other problems arising out of the Gulf crisis.

He also informed newsmen of an assassination attempt made by certain armed persons at his residence on Monday [3 December] night, in which he escaped injuries. He said he has no enmity toward anyone and it is difficult to say who had incited the six attackers.

First Mirage Jets Arrive From Australia

BK2911074090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The first consignment of Australian surplus Mirage fighter planes has arrived in Pakistan for induction into the country's Air Force. The deliveries have gone ahead despite political instability on the subcontinent and Pakistan's poor relations with neighboring India.

Christopher Kramer says the bargain basement sale of the jet won Australia friends in Pakistan but damaged the relations with India. While far from the state of the art, the 20-year-old Mirages will keep the Pakistan Air Force flying in the event of hostilities.

A total of 32 planes have now been delivered leaving 18 to come as well as spare engines and parts, in a deal worth $36 million [currency unit not specified]

10,000 Tonnes of Rice Sent to Soviet Union

BK0412112490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3.—Pakistan will send a donation of 10,000 tonnes of rice to Moscow to assist the USSR in meeting the acute foodstuff shortage there.

This was disclosed by Sartaj Aziz while briefing the newsmen after the meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

The minister said the donation was being made as a gesture of goodwill.

To a question as to why such goodwill gesture was not being made to Sudan, which was facing a similar situation, the minister replied that the government would do that if the United Nations made a call for the same.

It may be mentioned here that the United Nations had made a call for despatching foodstuff aid to the USSR.

Party Comments on Iranian Afghan Policy

BK0412133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Pakistan's influential fundamentalist Jamaat-i-islami Party (JI) Tuesday appealed to Iranian leaders not to go along with the superpower "game" in Afghanistan.

JI Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad said in a statement that the United States and the Soviet Union were trying to deny the Afghan mujahidin resistance the fruit of their long struggle.

"It is very sad that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran seems to have been sucked into this trap," Mr. Ahmad said, adding that any backing for the "U.S and USSR game and designs in the region does not go with the Islamic idealism for which Iran stands."

JI, which belongs to the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, strongly backs the mujahidin jihad (holy war) to topple the Afghan regime of President Najibullah and establish an Islamic government.

Mr. Ahmad said the two superpowers "are contriving an artificial arrangement among Najibullah, ex-king Zahir Shah and some smaller groups in the Afghan resistance."

He cited President Najibullah's reported stopover at the Iranian city of Mashad recently and accused Iran of actively siding with the "framework that is being worked out jointly by the U.S. and the USSR."

"It is not only intriguing but is also a cause of great concern for the effective leadership of the mujahidin and their supporters all over the Islamic world," the JI chief said.

He said "any compromise with Najib and Zahir Shah will be betrayal of the Afghan cause."

He added that the "new cooperation" between two major mujahidin groups—Hizb-e-islami and Jamaat-e-islami—has increased propsects for the "fall of Najib and establishment of mujahidin government."

Sharif on Domestic Issues, Gulf Crisis, Kashmir

BK0412164590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government will establish good democratic traditions in the country and come up to the expections of the people, who have given a massive mandate to it. Talking to editors of newspapers, senior journalists, and columnists from all over the country in Islamabad today, he said his government would give respect to the opposition and it would not take revenge on anybody. He said they would also like to create a congenial atmosphere in Parliament and work with the opposition in the larger interest of the country. The opposition, on their part, should also play a constructive role, he added.

About center-provinces relationship, the prime minister said his government is convening meetings of the Council of Common Interest and National Finance Commission this month to redress grievances of the provinces. This is a move toward providing greater autonomy to them.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the government would concentrate to eliminate corruption, provide employment opportunities on merit, and improve law and order situation. He said merit was denied to the poor and deserving people in the past by violating rules and regulation. He assured that in future, government jobs would be given purely on merit.

About law and order, the prime minister admitted that it was not satisfactory at certain places. A number of measures would be taken soon to improve the situation.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said his government would also concentrate on self reliance and reduce dependence on foreign loans. The government wants to put the economy on right direction. It will not accept loans with strings compromising on national interest. The prime minister said his government was endeavoring to have a clean and efficient administration and to deregulate the economy. For this purpose, a number of committees have been set up to suggest measures. Recommendations of the committees as and when received are being implemented.

His government has given a number of concessions for setting up new industries. Industries in rural areas will enjoy more tax exemptions as compared to those in urban areas. About the price hike, the prime minister said as and when oil prices in the international market would come down, the benefit would be passed on to the people.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, he said Pakistan wanted a peaceful solution of the issue as the war would be disastrous for the entire region. Pakistan on its part has opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The prime minister said during talks with the Indian prime minister in Male at the recent SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit, he discussed with him the Kashmir and Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue and pointed out that without the solution of Kashmir issue, the two countries could not move forward toward normalization of relations.

Oil Minister Departs for UAE, Saudi Arabia

BK0512050090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, has announced that supply of gas from Sui fields, disrupted by the recent blast, has been restored. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said a detailed inquiry has been ordered into the incident. He said four senior officials at Sui have been suspended with immediate effect on the basis of interim inquiry which has held them responsible for the incident.

Chaudhary Nisar Ali left Islamabad for Abu Dhabi today on a four-day visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Saudi Arabia. In the UAE, he would be meeting the president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and

other leaders; and in Saudi Arabia, he would be meeting King Fahd and oil and defense ministers of that country.

Editorial Urges High Military Preparedness

BK0412112290 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Defence Self-reliance"]

[Text] Inaugurating the 10th international seminar on defence technology organised by Pakistan Ordnance Factories at Wah, Chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, said that the Pakistan Army has acquired the capability to deter aggression due to the valuable and remarkable contribution of its defence industry which has enhanced its capability five times. The development strategy of Pakistan, he added, is aimed at indigenisation and self-reliance in defence and the different ordnance factories of the country are playing a meaningful role in this connection. Gen. Aslam Beg said that instead of buying sophisticated weapons which are costly, the obsolete weapons system has been improved and the Pakistan Ordnance Factories have given the country a new sense of pride and honour.

Of late there have been several significant developments in the region and it has become all the more important for us to maintain a high level of military preparedness to safeguard our territorial integrity and freedom. Towards this end it has become essential to improve our defence production by strengthening the scientific and technological base of the country. It is no gainsaying that there are compelling reasons for us to reduce dependence on foreign expertise in the field of defence production. We have to develop our own research and development potential but at the same time not fight shy of acquiring techniques which have already been developed. The ace weapons of today are yielding ground to new and more sophisticated weapon systems. As such more funds should be allocated for research. The deterrent capabilities of small nations lie in their having weapon systems which are superior to those of their enemies; if war is thrust upon them they have to be prepared to fight outnumbered. The 14 Ordnance Factories of the country are doing a commendable job. Beside producing eight types of high quality and export worthy ammunitions they have begun production of anti-tank missiles with the cooperation of China. In addition they are preparing to start the manufacture of tanks which would compare with the best in the world. All the same we need to develop the overall industrial base of the country so that the private sector also plays its part in defence production. In highly developed countries the production of armament is in the hands of private industry. With a healthy competition among them the armed forces are provided their requirements at reasonable rates. The establishment of hi-tech industries in the country needs to be encouraged and more stress laid on development of indigenous technology. Only then can we reduce dependence upon others for the supply of military equipment and build a balanced defence for the country. That may not be cheap, as generally understood, but would definitely be cheaper than fighting a war.

Hikmatyar Rules Out Zahir's Role in Settlement

BK0212095090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Dec 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, Nov. 30—The Chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has ruled out the role of former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah in the solution of the Afghan problem, reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

In a statement issued from inside Afghanistan he said that the only solution of the problem is that the communist ruler Dr. Najibullah surrenders before Mujahidin, an interim body of the Mujahidin replaces him and elections are held within six months limit of such take over so as to transfer power to the elected representatives.

Engineer Hikmatyar said that the conspiracies of the former King with Najibullah will further expose him before the Afghan people and he will loose the existing confidence amongst them. He said that Zahir Shah's joining of hands with Najib will be fruitful for the Mujahidin because they will get rid of the unsincere self-styled leaders.

He disclosed that with the current joint military attacks, Kabul regime is under severe pressure as fierce blows are being inflicted on the key installations of the regime. The Kabul-Hayratan and all the other major routes to Kabul are in control of the Mujahidin and they have paralysed the regimes military forces.

Engineer Hikmatyar said that Mujahidin will never share government with the puppet communist of Kabul and will instead establish an Islamic Government in Afghanistan through their sacred Jihad and put an end to the miseries of the people.

He warned that all the bids of the conspiring elements will be foiled and proclaimed that Zahir Shah and his supporters should know that Najib was taking the support of floating straws after he foresaw his capsizing boat. It is the Mujahidin who with their current attack kneeled down Najib to run behind other's support.

He advised Zahir Shah and his lackeys not to run behind the drowning boat and questioned that if Najib with the support of a superpower cannot stand before the Afghan Mujahids how could the others face them.

He said the only solution of the Afghan problem is that a joint institution of Mujahidin, acceptable to all Jihad parties, replaces Najib, holds elections within six months and thus brings an elected shura and hand over power to an elected Islamic Government. He denied any share for those in the interim institution who have shared power with the past regimes.

Interim Government Urges UN To Support Mujahidin

BK0312110590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 2—Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Govt. Prof Ghulam 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf has called upon the United Nations to support the stance of the Afghan mujahidin instead of presenting impracticable solutions that could not lessen the pains of the Afghan people. He was addressing a press conference at the AIG supreme court office here on Sunday afternoon, reports Afghan News Agency.

He at the same time called upon the ex-Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah, to do away with his own proposals. He announced that such proposals couldn't be of any importance before the decisions of the Afghan mujahidin.

He further advised elements like Zahir Shah to support the decisions of the Afghan mujahidin instead of coming out with impracticable plans.

The AIG prime minister rejected any reconciliation with those who according to him were a black spot on the face of the Afghan nation. he said that it is beyond reality that mujahidin will reconcile with a puppet ruler installed with the Russian tanks. He vowed that neither he nor his other mujahidin brothers will accept any reconciliation offer or any sort of coalition with the despicable ruler of Kabul. He at the same time, in an indirect expression, expressed concern over the contacts of some of the Afghan leaders with the Soviet Union, adding that any agreement which arrives at between the parties without a prior consensus of all the mujahidin will never be acceptable to them. He proclaimed that no power on earth could impose their decisons or will on the mujahidin. "We as an independent Muslim nation would decide our future according to the aspirations of the Afghan people and foil all the conspiracies against the mujahidin" he remarked.

He lamented the reported contacts of some of the Afghan leaders with the puppet ruler Najibullah. He said "I condemn all such secret moves and consider them against the Afghan Jihad. [no close quote as published] In response to a question regarding the sending of a mujahidin delegation to Russia, Professor Sayyaf strongly opposed the move. He said, "I am opposed to the sending of any sort of mujahidin delegation to Soviet Union".

Commenting over the move of AIG for holding elections inside Afghanistan he said that it was the only way for restoring peace in Afghanistan.

Interim Government Sends Election Supervisors

BK0312111990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 2—The interim government of Afghan Mujahidin today formally launched its election programme by despatching 138 election supervisory teams from Peshawar to begin election process inside Afghanistan.

Various caravans of the election commission set out for their journey with their sleeping bags after a select gathering of Afghan Mujahidin, intellectuals, elders and Ulema was addressed by Prof. Mujaddidi and Prof. Sayyal, President and Prime Minister of interim government, respectively.

The meeting was also addressed by Peshawar-based Shia leader Ayatullah Taqaddusi, Maulavi Nabi Mohammadi, Maulvi Jawad (Hikmatyar group) Dr. Farooq Azam (Nifa) Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad and Maulvi Abdul Waris (Hikmatyar).

Maulvi Yunas Khalis did not attend while his representative was also not seen. But Dr. Farooq Azam later told newsmen Yunas Khalis was fully participating his programme.

While announcing the election schedule at a press conference Dr. Farooq Azam who is acting as election commissioner of the interim government said that the election commissioner has begun its practical work of the election for Loya Jirga to reflect the will of Mujahdin and to give Afghan people the right for self-determination.

Dr. Farooq Azam said the Commission was sending 138 election supervisory teams to 20 provinces of Afghanistan.

He said as recommended by the election charter the commanders, scholars and chiefs of the tribes will be brought together by the supervisory teams to decide the way how to elect the representatives of the respective constituencies. The team, is then to supervise the process of election.

According to Dr. Farooq Azam ten representatives are coming from each constituency to Loya Jirga.

Most of them are coming.from Afghanistan, part from refugees from Pakistan and Iran and some from those who have migrated to other parts of the world.

Each resistance party sends ten persons to Loya Jirga, 20 good Muslims from inside Afghanistan are also included. At least 35 technocrats from abroad will also join the Loya Jirga. Members of the election commission are also part of the Loya Jirga.

All members of the Loya Jirga are due to come to Peshawar and report to the election commission by March 18, 1991.

Soviet Envoy Meets Interim Government Leader

BK2911120390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, Nov. 28—Russian Ambassador Mr. Viktor Yakunin along with consul for political affairs called on the AIG [Afghan Interim Government] President, Prof. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi at his residence here on Wednesday afternoon, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

They remained with AIG president for a long time and discussed with him the sending of AIG delegation to Russia in response to the invitation of the Russian Federation President Mr. Boris Yeltsin, reliable sources disclosed. The Afghan issue also reportedly came under discussion during the meeting. Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

Mujahidin Close Highways Near Soviet Border

BK0212131390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 1—Mujahidin launched an attack at the communist security posts in Jabal os Saraj District of Parvan Province on Nov. 23. As many as 50 soldiers were killed, 25 tanks and armoured vehicles and two multi-barrel rocket launcher BM-13's destroyed. The Kabul-Parvan highway was closed to traffic, the report added.

In continuation of previous operations in Tangi Tashkurghan and Kholm Districts of Samangan Province, Mujahidin under-commander Shirbash assaulted the communist regime's positions on Nov. 23, capturing 13 army personnel and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. However, a supply caravan of Kabul regime was ambushed in Tangi Tashkurghan on the same date, killing four servicemen and destroying a tank. Six trucks loaded with foodstuffs were also seized by the Mujahidin.

In the operation the Mujahidin sustained injuries.

Meanwhile according to the reports, reaching the Kabul-Shir Khan highway was closed due to the newly adopted strategy by Mujahidin.

The said highway is situated on the Afghan-Russian border and was closed to the traffic from Nov. 27 onwards, the reports added.

The Mujahidin's operation is still continuing on the communist positions in different areas of the highway. One post was reportedly destroyed during the operation.

Kabul-Parvan and Parvan-Hayratan highways were also closed in the series of the Mujahidin's newly adopted strategy.

Meanwhile, the Mujahidin of Afzali headquarter have attacked the security belt posts of the capital city of Herat Province on Nov. 23, killing three militiamen and injuring many others.

Following a single strategy adopted by field commanders, Mujahidin have intensified their operations across the country.

In continuation of previous attacks, Mujahidin of Lowgar Province have captured eight posts of the Kabul regime in Deh Now and Mughal-Khil areas of the province on Nov. 25. Quoting a report from Helmand, 45 militiamen surrendered to Commander Mirza Khan. A big quantity of arms including seven vehicles were seized by the Mujahidin.